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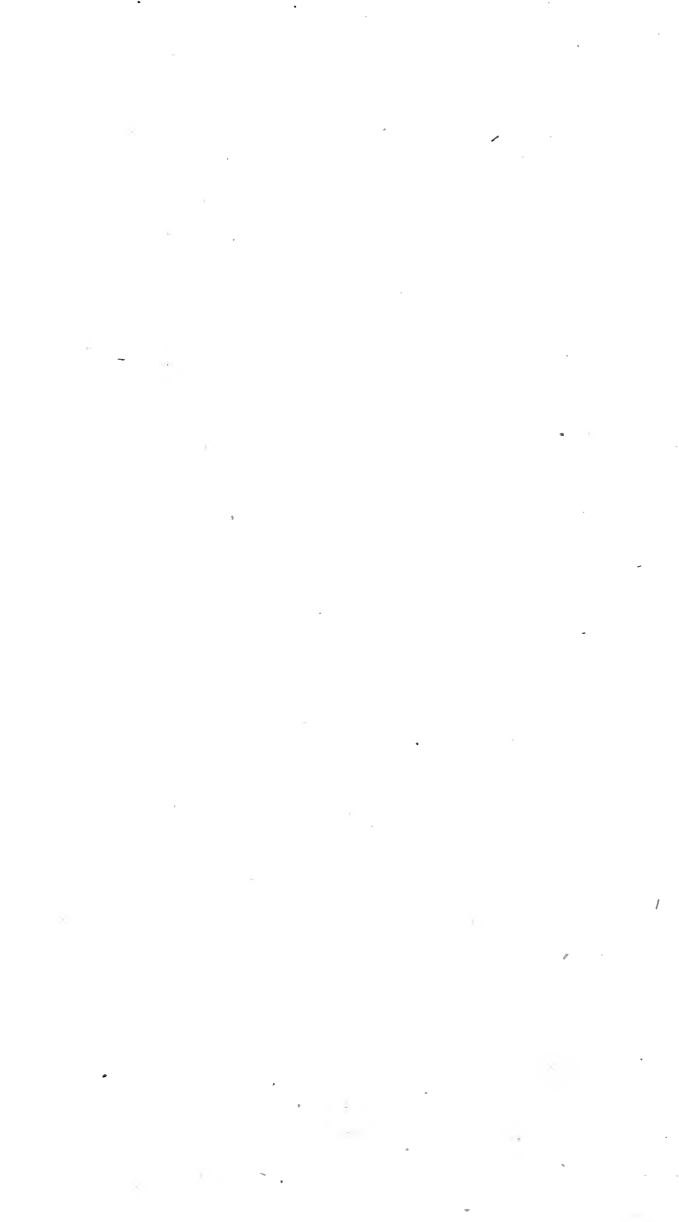


LANGHTON PRIORY.



A NOVEL.

Lane, Darling and Co. Leadenhall-Street.



LANGHTON PRIORY.

A NOVEL.

IN FOUR VOLUMES.

BY

GABRIELLI,

AUTHOR OF

MYSTERIOUS WIFE, MYSTERIOUS HUSBAND, &c. &c.

What though Religion's guardians taint her tide!
Pure is the fountain, though the stream flows wide!
Too oft her erring guides her cause betray:
Yet Rage grows impious when it bars her way.

VOL. I.

LONDON:
PRINTED AT THE
Minerva-Press,
FOR LANE, NEWMAN, AND CO.
LEADENHALL-STREET.

1809.



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LANGHTON PRIORY.

CHAP. I.

General Catalogue 15224955 466. 4V
IN the last week in June, 1801, the Earl of Algernon, and his son, Lord Dunluce, arrived at Plymouth. They were making the tour of England, as the situation of affairs upon the Continent had effectually precluded the younger peer from making, what was generally styled the grand tour. He might, it is true, have visited the northern courts; but as the Earl did not wish him to study for the diplomatic line, he had preferred his travelling at home, and in his company, to sending him into Sweden, Denmark, and Russia, with a travel-

ling tutor; since, though there is much to gratify the curiosity of the scientific traveller in those northern regions, there is little to be learned by the more juvenile tourist. Still the Earl was half inclined to accompany his son to Petersburg the ensuing summer, as the efforts of Peter the Great to civilize his countrymen, and the stupendous monuments of his genius, were extremely well calculated to inspire the youthful mind with emulation; but he very properly chose he should take a cursory view of England and Scotland, before he crossed the sea.

Now, be it known to our readers, that Lord Dunluce, who had just left college, though he had but just entered his twentieth year, had much rather have remained stationary at Brighton or Weymouth, as, at either of those places, he should have enjoyed the society of many of his fellow-collegians, who, like himself, considered pleasure as the sole business of their lives. The Earl of Algernon, though he had not
forgotten

forgotten that he had once entertained a similar idea, wished, by gentle means, to detach his even more volatile heir from the dissipated set with whom he had become intimate at Cambridge; and, in consequence, having sent the Countess to Weymouth with a party of agreeable friends, he left London in his curricule, with his son, immediately after the birthday, meaning, in the first place, to visit every place of note upon the southern coast; beginning with Portsmouth, from whence they crossed to the Isle of Wight, and having explored all the beauties of that small but favoured spot, they sailed for Southampton.

As we are writing a novel, and not the tour of England, we shall not tire our readers with describing what every guide to the different water-drinking places, and every tourist, has already done to our hands, as we are not fond of quoting the words of others, or of displaying our own lack of talents in the descriptive line;

suffice it, therefore, to say, that the travellers reached Plymouth on the 28th of June, in time for a fashionable dinner.

Lord Dunluce, whose versatility of disposition was seriously deplored by his father, had long been petitioning the Earl to allow him to purchase into the Guards; but being, by sad experience, (his younger brother having held a commission in that corps) fully acquainted with the incessant dissipation in which those officers indulge, he had put a decided negative upon the Viscount's martial wish; though, by way of gratifying his predilection in favour of a red-coat, he had given him a commission in the Woodville (the name of his principal seat) Volunteers; and, he was obliged to content himself with the certainty of being called into action, should the Corsican First Consul ever attempt to invade our shores; and, probably he would have felt perfectly satisfied, if he had not had a near relation then abroad with the army, and whose rank in life, though superior to his

his

his own, had not doomed him to a state of inactivity. This he frequently alledged to his father, who merely said in reply, that his cousin's life, being thus exposed by the duties of his profession, was an additional reason for his refusing to comply with his wishes; as he did not wish his title and estates should center in a Catholic, which they might do, were he, as well as the young Highlander, to adopt the profession of arms, since no one could be answerable for *la fortune de la guerre*.

At Portsmouth the Viscount's military ardour greatly abated, and he openly declared his preference to the naval service, protesting that his father had spoiled an excellent sailor, by having kept him at home.

The Earl laughed at this change in his sentiments, observing that, had he been a French noble during the ancient regime, he would certainly have styled his versatile son Zephirin de St. Leger, Marquis de Volant, as he seldom remained in the same

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mind.

mind for twelve hours at a time; and gravely assuring him, that perseverance, patience, and prudence, were quite as necessary as courage, in the composition of either a soldier or a sailor; and that he would have felt disgusted with either, had he been called into actual service, before he would have had time to gather any laurels. But having been informed that the frigate was then lying off that port, waiting for a fair wind to carry her down the Channel, as he was intimately acquainted with her captain, who was the younger son of a nobleman, he told his son they would seize the opportunity to pay his friend a visit; and as Lord Dunluce had never been at sea, if we except his short trip to and from the Isle of Wight, he was delighted with the proposal, anticipating great pleasure from being on board so fine a frigate.

A boat was, therefore, engaged for the next morning; and, after an hour's pleasant sailing, the father and son came alongside the ———, and, having ascended the
wooden

wooden walls, were very cordially received by Captain Newburgh, who was extremely pleased to see the Earl, to whose Lady he claimed a distant relationship, and from whom he had received many marks of real friendship. He, therefore, pointed out to the young landsman every thing worthy notice on board, and led him below into all the different births, explaining to whom each was appropriated; and the Viscount was honest enough to agree, that the young *Mids* were not quite so commodiously lodged as he liked to be: the state cabin was, however, a very comfortable apartment, he conceived; and he fancied he should enjoy sleeping in a cot, it must be so somniferous a motion—enquiring whither the frigate was bound?

“To Gibraltar and Malta,” was the reply; “and we shall weigh anchor as soon as the wind will suffer us to sail; and there seems a probability of its being rather more favourable to-morrow, though it now blows right in our teeth.”

“ I wish you would take me with you,” rejoined the young Peer; “ I am sure a sea voyage would be of infinite service to me, the sea air is so bracing.”

“ I shall be very happy to oblige you, if the Earl has no objection; though I am fearful you would soon find time hang heavy upon your hands.”

“ In pity to you both, I shall not give my consent,” rejoined the Earl, “ as I am sure Henry would be a very tiresome companion; and you could not very easily get rid of him, once out at sea, though I am convinced you would leave him at the first place you touched at.”

The Viscount was certain that he should feel perfectly happy, were he suffered to visit Malta, since there he should probably meet his cousin.

“ Whom you have never yet seen; therefore, I think you may as well wait his return to England, to introduce yourself to his notice; and as he is certainly now in Egypt, or, at all events, lying off there,
you

you would not find him at Malta; nor, were you to follow him to Egypt, would he have much leisure to bid you welcome."

"Very true, my Lord," rejoined Captain Newburgh; "as I am convinced that both officers and men will have many hardships to endure, and many sharp encounters with the enemy, before they make good their footing there; therefore I would advise Lord Dunluce to postpone visiting his relation:" and as the already stiff breeze had rather encreased since they came on board, the motion of the frigate soon convinced the person he addressed, that he was, as yet, a mere fresh-water sailor, to the no small amusement of the Earl and the Captain, since the sickness he felt soon damped his wish to visit the catacombs of Egypt; not that he chose to acknowledge his rising dislike to the briny flood, affirming, on the contrary, that he was not so faint-hearted as they supposed, since he was merely paying the penalty.

most landsmen did during their first voyage; but he was convinced he should only have the better appetite to his dinner.

The Captain was rejoiced to hear him say so, as he hoped the Earl meant to take that meal with him on board: to which his Lordship very readily consented, conceiving that, before evening, his son would no longer wish to increase the number of the naval heroes of Great Britain; and, not feeling the same inconvenience from the motion of the frigate which the young Peer could not entirely shake off, orders were, therefore, given for an early dinner—on his account, the Captain gaily told him; promising to go on shore with them afterwards, as there was no chance of his being able to sail before noon the next day, allowing the wind to favour his intention.

The morning, however, soon slipped away, but Lord Dunluce was not able to do honour to a very good dinner, which they had scarcely finished, when the Captain

tain was informed there was a vessel hove in sight, coming in under a press of sail.

“What is she?” demanded the Captain.

She was still at too great a distance for them to resolve his question; but as the wind sat, and at the rate she came, they should soon be able to inform him—she was certainly a king’s ship.

The Earl proposed going upon deck, which they did, after drinking a few glasses of wine; the Captain taking his glass, by the help of which he was soon enabled to pronounce her to be a frigate, and doubtless from Malta or Egypt.

“Then we shall probably learn some news from thence,” cried the Earl, “as we have, for some time, been in expectation of some intelligence from that quarter—God send it may be of favourable import!”

“Amen!” rejoined the Captain, taking another glance at the vessel coming in, which convinced him that she was either from Malta or from before Alexandria.

“Then I hope,” resumed the Earl, “the British arms have been victorious, though you were not with your cousin, Henry.”

The person he addressed took his raillery in very good part, declaring he felt extremely anxious to learn whether they were to rejoice or grieve.

“Oh, of course we shall have Plymouth illuminated,” said the Captain—“But let us return to the cabin, and drink success once more to the British arms both by sea and land, and then we will endeavour to gratify our very natural curiosity: she will probably drop her anchor at no great distance from us, when I can send a boat to learn what intelligence she has brought.”

“I think we had better go on shore,” replied the Earl, “then we shall certainly be among the first to learn all we wish to know.”

“That will be much the best plan,” cried Lord Dunluce, whose dinner did not seem to agree with him.

His father and the Captain laughed at

his eagerness ; but, to his great joy, the latter promised to conform to his wishes, giving orders for his boat to be made ready, as he proposed rowing alongside the vessel which was coming in, when she dropped anchor ; and as Lord Dunluce preferred remaining upon deck, to enjoy the sight of a ship in full sail, he said, he promised to give the Captain timely notice of her lying to.

“ Of course, you may release the usual watch,” observed the Earl, “ since so *experienced* a sailor has undertaken to supply their place.”

The officers upon deck were, however, polite enough to suffer the young landsman to give the Captain notice that it was time for him to start, if he wished to go alongside the newly-arrived frigate ; and he, in addition to this communication, said, that some of those gentlemen had observed, that she was certainly the bearer of good news, as she came as if old Davy was kicking her along, and with more sail set
than

than prudence warranted, considering the stiff breeze.

The Captain agreed to the justice of the remark, "but it was the characteristic of a British seaman to be something more than prudent;" returning upon deck with his guests, in hopes that she might pass sufficiently near for him to hail them with his speaking-trumpet. They were, however, disappointed; for as she drew less water, and had brought over dispatches of the utmost importance, she ran much nearer in shore.

Aware of the intention of her sailing-master, Captain Newburgh hurried his men, making no doubt of coming alongside her before the bearer of the dispatches left her: he was, however, disappointed in his expectations, as they saw her boat push off a few minutes before they came up with her. The Captain swore his men were a set of lubberly dogs, vowing, if they did not bring him alongside the other boat before she reached the harbour, they should

should have reason to repent their laziness.

The Earl laughed at his friend's impatience, and the men knew they had nothing to fear; but the love they bore their brave commander, induced them to strain every nerve to oblige him; and he kept encouraging them, observing, the other sailors seemed resolved to keep them to it, for the honour of old England—"All hearts of oak, like yourselves, my brave boys!" But being acquainted with the Captain of the other frigate, who was sitting at the stern of his boat, he hailed him the moment they were sufficiently near; and the person he addressed having called out nearly at the same moment, his men rested upon their oars till his friend came alongside; and, after a cordial shake of the hand, Captain Newburgh eagerly demanded, "What news?" adding, "the Earl of Algernon, his son, as well as myself, are all impatience to hear that the French are
beaten,

beaten, as we presume you are from Egypt."

"We are; and I have the satisfaction to inform you, that the British forces have obtained a most glorious victory over our natural enemies; but it has cost us dear, as Sir Ralph Abercromby was mortally wounded in the action, and is since dead; but, like the immortal Wolfe, he lived long enough to know that the grand object of his mission was accomplished."

"Well, God's will be done!" resumed Captain Newburgh—"a British officer can hardly regret any one who has fallen in the service of his country: his memory will be recorded in its annals, and sacred to every soldier, therefore I am half tempted to envy him such a death. That gentleman, I suppose, has brought over the dispatches," looking at a very fine young fellow in the Highland regimentals and tartan cap or bonnet, who was sitting next the Captain.

"He

“He is ; and I feel proud at having been selected to bring his Lordship and such glorious news to England, as the Marquis of Endermay fully shared in the honour and peril of the victory.”

The young Highlander had been rather stedfastly considering Lord Algernon and his son, from the moment he had heard their names ; and his seemed to have still more surprised them, since, owing to the position in which he sat, and to the Captain's having leaned forward to address his friend, they had caught but an imperfect view of his features, and had merely, upon their first coming up, exchanged a silent bow with the young hero, whom they had presumed was an officer of rank, and the bearer of the dispatches.

As all parties were very anxious to reach the shore, the boats proceeded thither, Captain ——— detailing to his friend all he had learned respecting the engagement from the Marquis, during their voyage ;
and

and as our readers have long since read a similar detail in every newspaper, we shall not tire them with a repetition of what was, at the time, grateful to the heart of every British subject; suffice it to say, that the two parties landed nearly at the same time, when the Earl instantly stepping forward, offered his hand to the young soldier, saying, "As you have heard my name, I fancy I need not add, that I have an uncle's claim to your regard, my dear nephew."

"Your Lordship does me honour," was the reply—"I little expected to have been so fortunate as to have met you at Plymouth. You probably know, that I did hope to have made myself an interest in your favour, before I left England."

"I was more than usually angry with the gout for detaining me in Cheshire, but I do hope we shall no longer be estranged from each other; though, believe me, I sincerely regretted the demise of your late grandfather;

grandfather ; and would to Heaven he had been spared to hail the return of his beloved Malcolm !”

Perceiving that he had strongly roused the feelings of his youthful auditor, he hastily changed the subject, reverting to the gallant Abercromby, and rejoicing that Lord Endermay had escaped unhurt in such a conflict.

The young hero having rather recovered himself, raised his cap, and displaying a black ribbon that crossed the upper part of his forehead, said, “ I am fortunate enough to bear some marks of French politeness, though the thickness of my pericranium prevented the broad-sword, from which I received this salute, from doing me any material injury. But pray do me the favour to introduce me to my cousin, though I shall hardly have time to exchange three words with him, as I have not even an hour to spare to devote to your society—but I trust we shall soon meet again.”

“ I shall

“ I shall make a point of our doing so,” was the reply, introducing him to Lord Dunluce, who certainly, though what might be deemed a very fine young man, did not appear to advantage by the side of the young soldier, who was much taller, and who looked as if he durst do any thing in defence of his country. The cousins, nevertheless, shook hands very cordially, Lord Dunluce declaring, that he had been so impatient to seek his acquaintance, he had been petitioning his father that very morning, to allow him to seek him in Egypt; acknowledging that he was quite as well pleased he had been saved the voyage, as he had since discovered that he was not so good a sailor as the Marquis appeared to be.

The Earl explained in a few words, adding, “ Henry’s next wish will be to be enrolled in your regiment, as I perceive he is very much struck with your costume.”

The young soldier gaily observed—
“ his

“ his cousin was not a Scotchman, therefore would certainly prefer being incorporated into an English regiment ;” asking after Lady Algernon, and his paternal grandfather, the Marquis of Derwent ?

“ They were both very well,” the Earl replied ; Lord Dunluce archly adding, “ I am fearful the latter will not rejoice when he learns your return, cousin—you understand me ?”

“ Surely his Lordship has forgotten my excess of politeness towards his *chere amie*,” was the answer.

Their arrival at the inn gave a turn to the conversation, as the Marquis ordered a chaise-and-four to be got ready immediately ; desiring one of his servants to ride forward the first stage, that he might not be detained, and to dispatch a postillion from thence, to prevent any future delay : he should take his valet in the chaise with him.

The Earl understanding he had not dined when he landed, insisted upon his
taking

taking some refreshment, and upon his making use of the post-chaise he had in his suite, as he, of course, did not mean to stop to sleep upon the road; enquiring, while he was making a very hasty repast, whether he proposed making any stay in London, after he had delivered his credentials?

“Not more than a couple of days, I hope, as I am very anxious to revisit Montrose Castle, where my presence has long been expected. May I hope to see you and my cousin there this summer? If you have never visited Scotland, I think you have a treat in store.”

“You may depend upon seeing us there, my dear nephew. From hence I propose proceeding to the Land’s End, and shall then join Lady Algernon at Malvern, whither she is going from Weymouth, from whence we propose making the tour of the lakes; and we will then proceed into Scotland before we return home, as I shall be highly gratified by visiting the
Highlands,

Highlands, independent of the pleasure I shall feel in being your guest."

Lord Dunluce spoke to the same effect, though he had hoped they should have joined his mother at Weymouth: however, as that was not to be, he was not sorry they had so opportunely met his cousin, who having asked his uncle whether he had lately seen his brother and sister? and being assured that he never yet had had that satisfaction, stepped into the Earl's post-chaise, which he was to send down to Bristol to meet his Lordship there, and proceeded to London, to disseminate the glorious news he had been chosen to impart to the Ministry.

CHAP. II.

FOR the present, we will leave the Marquis of Endermay to pursue his hasty journey to London, as we wish to enter into some antecedent details respecting his family, which it is necessary our readers should be made acquainted with, before we proceed any farther with our tale.

Henry Albany, Marquis of Derwent, his paternal grandfather, had three sons, by Laura his wife, the only daughter and heiress to the title and estates of Sidney, Earl of Algernon; and we believe his ranking one degree above her father in the peerage, was Lady Laura's greatest inducement

ment to honour him with her hand ; since, had a Duke become his rival, *his Grace* would indubitably have borne away the prize : and as her Ladyship's rank in expectancy, and the large possessions to which she was entitled, were her chief recommendations in the Marquis of Derwent's eyes, they were, as might have been supposed, (with such motives for marrying) a very fashionable, if not a very happy couple ; and in due time the Marchioness presented her Lord with a son and heir, the following year she gave birth to a second son, and, early in the fourth year, she became the mother of a third ; and, to the Marquis's great joy, she did not again encrease his family, as he merely wished to have their joint honours handed down to posterity by one of their immediate descendants, but not to be burthened with many younger branches, whom he looked upon as a sort of dead weight upon men of fashion.

A life of incessant dissipation did not,
VOL. I. c however,

however, suit the constitution of the Marchioness, who, after vainly trying every mineral spring in Europe, paid the debt of nature at Naples, in the thirty-first year of her age; since neither a warmer climate, nor the first medical advice, could check the progress of a complaint upon her lungs, which finally terminated her existence.

Her father and husband had accompanied her abroad, and the former did not survive her many years, though no man took greater pains to prolong the term of his existence, as he constantly spent his winter in Italy or the south of France, and always had a medical man in his suite. Nevertheless, soon after his eldest grandson had entered his twelfth year, he was consigned to the tomb of his ancestors; and Henry, Lord Albany, the eldest son of his deceased daughter, inherited his title and entailed estates. To his other two grandsons he bequeathed his personals, amounting to upwards of sixty thousand pounds,

pounds, which the Marquis thought a very ample provision for younger children, in addition to the forty thousand pounds which were secured to them by the marriage-settlements; and as he had no intention of marrying again, he took a celebrated dancer into keeping, and gave more than ever into all the pleasures of the day, among which he ranked gaming and the free use of the bottle, having constant recourse to the latter when a run of ill luck had depressed his spirits: and as he rather gloried in his excesses, and in being ranked among the men of spirit of the times, his sons, who were at Eton when their mother died, soon learned how profitably their father spent his time, as, in every newspaper, they read inuendoes respecting his fashionable propensities, and knew that he kept the best-appointed equipages, drove the finest horses, and supported the most dashing foreigner then upon the opera stage; not to mention his racing-stud, as he was a constant attendant at all

the Newmarket meetings, and, of course, belonged to the Jockey Club.

That these boys should, therefore, imbibed a wish to be equally celebrated in the annals of fashion, was not very surprising, as they presumed that the Marquis, who was avowedly a pupil of pleasure, was much happier than any of those moral good sort of men could be, whom they sometimes heard mentioned with respect by their private tutor; and, in consequence of this supposition, they early gave proofs of their having reaped great benefit from the dissolute example their father continued to set them, who being, of course, informed of their petty excesses, which he deemed inexcusable, and understanding that they rather encouraged each other in the pursuit of mischief, he thought it most prudent to separate them.

Lord Algernon, now in his fourteenth year, was, therefore, doomed to remain at Eton, while Lord Albertus Albany, his second brother, whom the Marquis always considered

considered as the flower of his family, was removed to Westminster; and Lord William, the youngest and wildest of the three, was sent to Winchester: and, for a time, their separation had the desired effect of rendering them more attentive to their studies, though they all continued resolved to tread closely in their father's steps, as soon as they were their own masters; and as Lord Algernon had a very liberal allowance, he never suffered his less fortunate brothers to want for money; and when he was removed to Cambridge, he soon found means of procuring additional supplies, when required.

Lord Albertus was removed, at the same time, to Oxford; and we must acknowledge, the Marquis gave him some very good advice when he sent him thither, observing, that the law and the church were both open to him, and, ample as was the provision his grandfather had made for him, it was necessary he should adopt some liberal profession.

Lord Albertus, whom Nature seemed to have intended for an orator, after due deliberation, resolved to add LL.D. to his name, and to aspire to the woolsack. The Marquis applauded his choice, hinting that it might pave the way to his admission into the Ministry, the inferior places being generally filled by younger brothers of family; and as Lord Albertus was not, at this period, either deficient in parts or of ambition, he conceived that he might, in time, aspire to the post of Premier.

Lord William having expressed a wish to enter the army, after spending a year at Cambridge, whither he had gone when Lord Algernon went upon his travels, was, with the Marquis's full concurrence, admitted into the Guards—a very unlikely school to work a reformation in his way of thinking, or in his estimation of the pleasures of life: therefore, before he became of age, he was initiated into every vice and folly likely to ruin his health, morals, and fortune.

The

The Earl of Algernon having formed a tender connexion in Italy, and being fully able to gratify all his ruling passions abroad, was in no haste to return to England. Having dismissed his travelling-tutor as soon as he became of age, he entered upon the same career his father had so long pursued; and was soon cited as a model of extravagance and folly, in many of the capital cities in Europe.

Lord Albertus, who was infinitely the most sordid of the three, though not the less dissipated, had greatly disappointed the Marquis's sanguine hopes that he would make his way as an orator, having addicted himself to every degrading vice during his residence at Oxford, and connected himself with a set of low fellows, who were perverting his principles, even more effectually than had he associated with the high-bred rakes, who were the companions of his brothers; since, if his pleasures were not so expensive as theirs, the consequences of his excesses were not
c 4 likely

likely to prove less ruinous ; as he became so devoted to the bottle, that he was frequently fleeced and duped in the most shameful manner, by the men he suffered to treat him as their equal.

When he came of age, he took chambers in the Temple, and the Marquis promised, if he broke with his low associates, to bring him into Parliament, which might lead to his obtaining some sinecure place under Government : but even these hopes could not induce him to give up attending every boxing-match he heard of, nor incline him to relinquish the superlative pleasure of driving a stage-coach, at the risk of the passengers' necks, when more than three parts tipsy ; and as he was the occasion of numerous accidents, he not unfrequently paid pretty dearly for this display of his dexterity ; and being, besides, paymaster-general among the set he had at his beck and call, he was, like his younger brother, though infinitely more slowly, pursuing the road to ruin. As for
Lord

Lord William, as he had maintained an establishment nearly as elegant as his father's, from the time he became of age, and was, besides, very fond of a box and dice, before he was two-and-twenty, his thousands were so shrunk, that he began to fear, nothing but a sudden turn of luck could enable him to support the extravagant style in which he had set out in life.

His elder brother having contrived to involve himself very seriously by this time, returned to England to settle his affairs, well aware that his father would not advance him a shilling more than his mother's jointure, which he was compelled to allow him, and which, in addition to the large income he had derived from his grandfather, certainly ought to have sufficed for all his wants; and he was candid enough to condemn his own want of prudence, and to regret his inability to assist Lord William, except by his advice, as he with difficulty raised money enough (his

estates being entailed) to enable him to liquidate his own debts.

Lord Albertus had so frequently disgraced his name and connexions, by his propensity to low fun, and by continuing to associate with his college-connexions, that the Marquis had ceased to notice him; and Lord William had been very much estranged from him; nor was the Earl inclined to make any attempt to reclaim him, rather rejoicing that his father's prognostics concerning him had been so completely disappointed: had it been in his power, he would certainly have assisted his favourite brother to retrieve his affairs; but his own extravagance having rendered that impossible, he could only advise him to look out for a rich wife; observing, that many women of fortune would like, if even by courtesy, to be styled My Lady; and certainly, in point of figure, Lord William might be said to stand almost unrivalled in England: his manners were no less

less captivating, which, added to his red coat, would render him irresistible among the city belles, the Earl told him; advising him to stipulate for a plum at least, which would set him handsomely afloat again; hinting, that no time was to be lost, as he could not much longer maintain his present appearance, without incurring debts which might subject him to many inconveniences, though he promised to bring him into Parliament for a borough of his own, at the next general election; but, till then, he must be upon his guard, as greater men than him had long languished in prison.

Lord William was well aware of the precipice upon which he stood, and that he must either, as the Earl proposed, reduce his expences, by immediately becoming his inmate, or look out for a rich wife; and he did not much relish the idea of marrying merely for money, since he thought Love a more agreeable guest than Plutus, in the temple of Hymen. Had he

sooner thought of taking unto himself a wife, he might have chosen among the first-rate stars of fashion ; he, therefore, could not resolve to give his hand to a rich woman, for whom he should ever after have to blush ; yet to part with his liberty, except for an ample equivalent, situated as he was, would be only encreasing his present difficulties ; and few women to whom he might pretend, were likely to have more than ten or fifteen thousand pounds, and their parents or guardians would require adequate settlements being made upon them, which would by no means suit his purpose, even had they much larger fortunes ; and as for the rich citizens, among whose daughters his brother wished him to make his choice, they would, he feared, be still worse to deal with, as he knew that even his elder brother's title would not prevent some of them from driving a hard bargain, when disposing of their daughters ; and, should he steal a match with any of their heiresses,

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ten to one but they would either disinherit his wife, or settle their money upon their children, and he did not relish running such a risk.

While, however, he was thus undecided, and had indeed nearly resolved to give up housekeeping, a young lady made her first appearance in the world of fashion, for whom he soon felt the most tender regard, though he assured his brother that he was not so very insane as to aspire to the hand of Lady Zara Montrose, who was the only daughter of the then Marquis of Endermay, and sole heiress to his title and estates; in addition to which, she had eighty thousand pounds, the bequest of her maternal uncle, entirely at her own disposal. She was, at this period, in her eighteenth year, and had been this spring consigned by her fond father (her mother was no more), to the care of a lady of the first rank and fashion, under whose auspices she made her *entrée* into the great world. The Marquis did not accompany her

her to London, but promised to come in search of her before the summer birthday, as he meant to accompany her to Court upon that national *fête*.

As Lord William continued to move in the first circles, he was early introduced to this fascinating young Scotchwoman, whose superior attractions and national vivacity soon convinced him that he was *bonâ fide* in love, and that he must be miserable with any other woman.

We have already said that he was equally formed to captivate; and Lady Zara soon learned from the daughter of her protectress, that Lord William Albany was the idol of all the belles of fashion, and that he was allowed to be one of the handsomest and most amiable men in England.—Her Ladyship did not wish to be singular, we must suppose; she, therefore, soon disposed of her heart in favour of this much-admired mortal, whose family and connexions were certainly unexceptionable. Therefore, though she was soon
surrounded:

surrounded with admirers, Lord William had the triumph of perceiving, that she listened to him with far greater complacency than to his less fortunate rivals, and that his silent homage had effectually won her esteem.

Frequent meetings, either in public or private parties, soon rendered them more familiar; and though the sincerity of Lord William's passion rendered him unusually timid, he, at last, ventured to dare his fate, by opening his heart to his fair enslaver; and as he spoke in the impassioned language of real love, his suit was not absolutely forbidden; and he had the farther satisfaction of perceiving, that he was nothing less than indifferent to the fair Scotch lassie. But this was not sufficient; he must endeavour to prevail upon her to consent to a private marriage, as he durst not flatter himself that her father would approve of her marrying a man so much her inferior in point of rank and fortune, as he had been told that Lord Endermay

fully expected his daughter would marry a Duke : and would Lady Zara's regard for him induce her to take the rash step he meant to propose ? This was very dubious, he conceived, as he did not, though perfectly conscious of his personal attractions, fancy himself irresistible.

It was now, however, the beginning of May, and the Marquis was expected in town by the end of the month ; he must, therefore, attempt to bring Lady Zara into his plans, if he hoped to become her husband ; and as Dame Fortune was inclined to favour him, Lady de Vallency, her *cicerone*, fancying the air of London disagreed with her, though, in fact, it was the late hours she kept, borrowed the villa of a friend at Knightsbridge, whither she removed with her daughter and guest, the second week in May, which enabled the young ladies frequently to take early walks in Kensington Gardens, Miss de Vallency being in all her friend's secrets ; and there they always met Lord William, who could
not

not bring himself to propose a private union to his adored Zara, till she one morning informed him, rather abruptly, that her father was expected in town the succeeding week, when she should remove into Arlington-street, where he had a house, though she did not suppose he would remain more than a fortnight in London.

Though prepared to expect the arrival of Lord Endermay, Lord William, now rendered sensible of his own imprudence, in not sooner making his wishes known to Lady Zara, seemed ready to sink at her feet, and was, for some seconds, unable to articulate a word.

Lady Zara, who perfectly comprehended in what his distress originated, feeling, like himself, assured that Lord Endermay would never willingly consent to her forming such a connexion, was scarcely less agitated, as she had, by her friend's advice, imparted this distressing intelligence to her lover, on purpose to hasten his termination ;

termination ; and it certainly had the desired effect, as he candidly confessed that he durst not apply to the Marquis, and Lady Zara would not encourage him to do so.

It was therefore, after a long explanatory debate, settled, Miss de Vallency acting as adviser, that the lovers should be asked at Kensington church, under their own names, by which means the ceremony might be performed there on the ensuing Monday fortnight ; and her Ladyship was convinced her father would not think of leaving town before ; and she was also sure that he would not object to her devoting the chief part of her time to Lady de Vallenoy, who was certainly far from well, and who did not propose returning to London before the 3d of June : Lord William was to take a lodging at Brompton, equally in that parish ; and Miss de Vallency was convinced that no one would forbid the banns between William Albany and Sarah Montrose, as she knew the clergyman would

would style her friend. Suffice it to say, that she proved a true prophet, as the Marquis readily consented to his daughter's remaining at Knightsbridge till the birth-day; and as none of the friends of either party ever frequented Kensington church, no suspicions were entertained of the lovers' intentions: and Lady Zara having spent Sunday with Lady de Vallency, who had returned to Knightsbridge on the 5th of June, slept with her friend, who, in return, accompanied her, the next morning, to the altar, where she plighted her faith to her adoring lover, who left her at Lady de Vallency's door, with whom she was to remain, while he sent his brother, who was not in any of his secrets, to inform Lord Endermay of the steps he had taken. If he refused to receive and forgive them, she was to remove immediately to Lord William's elegant mansion in Weymouth-street; but if he extended the olive branch, they resolved to be entirely guided by his advice.

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The Earl of Algernon, though very much pleased in one sense, hardly relished the idea of waiting upon the Marquis of Endermay with such unexpected, if not unpleasant, intelligence; but as he was sincerely attached to his brother, he gave him a very sincere proof of his regard, by becoming his ambassador upon this important occasion.

The Marquis was just going to set out in search of his daughter, who was to dine in Arlington-street, when the Earl was announced. As they were not even acquainted with each other, except by sight, the Marquis was astonished, not having even surmised that Lord William Albany had been noticed by his daughter. His Lordship was, of course, shewn in, and, with due deference to the feelings of his auditor, he briefly related why he had thus intruded upon him.

The Marquis was both hurt and disappointed; but as Lord Algernon's simple, but concise tale, had convinced him that
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he had not been in the bridegroom's secrets, he acknowledged himself obliged to the young Peer, for having undertaken what, he was convinced, must have been a very unpleasant task ; and as his daughter was married, he very prudently put a very good face upon the matter, since the Derwent and Algernon families ranked high in the British peerage : and though he entertained no very great respect for the father of his son-in-law, and had heard that his sons very closely trod in his steps, his regard for his daughter induced him to declare he freely forgave the young couple ; desiring Lord Algernon would send the bridegroom in search of his bride, as he felt anxious to see and embrace his daughter, and to give them both his blessing ; not feeling inclined to proceed himself to Knightsbridge, as he was much less pleased with Lady de Vallency than with the young couple, who soon arrived in Arlington-street, being even more eager to receive than he was to bestow his blessing : and as

Lord

Lord William made a very favourable impression upon him, and he soon perceived that he was seriously in love with his daughter, he felt perfectly reconciled to the match before he retired for the night ; having insisted upon the new-married couple remaining his guests for the present, and making a point of their returning with him into Scotland the following week.

Lord William assured him that he meant henceforth to be entirely guided by his advice ; and the following morning, while his bride was receiving a congratulatory visit from her bride-maid, he candidly acknowledged to his father-in-law how much he had impaired his fortune, but seemed so sensible of his errors, that, not wishing he should be a dependant upon his wife, he put him into immediate possession of the eighty thousand pounds she had placed at his disposal, taking upon himself to make his daughter a very liberal allowance for pin-money ; and as his estates were
entailed.

entailed upon her or her heirs, their joint savings, he gaily told Lord William, must be appropriated to the younger children.

The Marquis of Derwent had rejoiced at first, when he learned what an excellent match his youngest son had made; but had finally blamed himself for not having endeavoured to rival him in the affections of his bride, since, less modest than his handsomer son, he still fancied himself irresistible; of course, he visited the new-married pair, but made them no nuptial present, as he was much too selfish to devote his money to the use of his children; as he fully gave the Marquis of Endermay to understand, that he should do nothing more for Lord William while he lived; when he died, he might come in for a share of his personals, if he altered his mode of life.

Lord Endermay could have retorted upon his brother Peer, but did not think it worth his while; and by way of keeping his son-in-law out of the way of temptation,

tion, having advised him to give up his house in Weymouth-street, he took him and his daughter down to Montrose Castle; and as Lord William had really married for love, and had, as the Marquis had foreseen, no temptation to go astray in Scotland, he was soon more than reconciled, as he was even rejoiced at the step his daughter had taken, and even proud of her husband, who was a most agreeable companion, and who was soon not only noticed but courted by all Lord Endermay's friends.

The Castle was, therefore, a constant scene of festivity during the summer; and as Lady Zara was in the family-way, the Marquis chose to spend the winter there, not absolutely in conformity to Lord William's wishes or expectations; but his continued regard for his wife, whose name he had assumed in compliance with her father's request, induced him to agree to his proposal with much apparent chearfulness; and as he was fond of shooting, and did not want for society, the winter soon slipped

ped away. The Earl of Algernon had paid him a flying visit during the summer, but as he was not yet a reformed man, the Marquis did not press his stay, rather wishing to keep the brothers asunder for the present ; and to his great joy, the heir to his title and estates, whom we have already introduced to the notice of our readers, was ushered into the world under his roof, the 29th of April.

Lord William sincerely participated in his satisfaction ; but unfortunately their rejoicings were of short duration, since, on the tenth day after the birth of her child, Lady Zara was a corpse. Sincerely was she mourned by both father and husband, as her son, though the idol of both, by no means consoled them for their loss ; and as every room in the castle recalled her to their memory, the Marquis was the first to advise Lord William should visit his relations in England, from all of whom, Lord Albertus excepted, he had received letters of condolence ; and the Earl of Al-

gernon had strongly pressed him to join him in London, or offered to give him the meeting at Woodville, his seat in Cheshire, or at any water-drinking place he might like to visit. His paternal aunt, a maiden sister of Lord Derwent's, with whom he had never been upon a footing of intimacy, also sent him a very pressing invitation to become her guest during his first mourning. Therefore, having seen his son christened Malcolm Albany Montrose, he took an affectionate leave of the Marquis, who meant to visit Ireland during his absence, as he presumed Lord William would winter with him in Scotland, and proceeded to London, where he met with a most cordial reception from Lord Algeron ; but as he could not appear in public during his close mourning for his wife, nor even join many gay parties, as he still sincerely deplored her loss, he resolved to seize the opportunity to visit Lady Winifred Albany, conceiving that the solitude of Highwood would be more congenial
to

to his feelings at this time, than even the gay rattle of his good-humoured brother.

The Marquis of Derwent had just left London for Spa, when Lord William arrived in Portland-place, as he was even more eager than heretofore in the pursuit of pleasure, appearing to think that every moment that he devoted to any other purpose was mere lost time ; and having written a well-worded letter of condolence to his son and the Marquis of Endermay, upon the late melancholy occasion, he conceived that he had done all which etiquette required ; and as he had an innate dislike to mourning, since it always reminded him of dying, he had purposely left England to avoid meeting his son while in the-dismals, he said ; and as Lord William had never felt any great degree of affection for him, he was by no means hurt at being prevented from paying his respects to him. Therefore, having written Lord Endermay word whither he was going, he left town

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for Highwood, rather more resigned to his loss than when he quitted Scotland.

CHAP. III.

LADY Winifred Albany was five years the Marquis of Derwent's senior, and had, for the last fifteen, resided entirely at her seat in Lancashire, having long been entirely estranged from her brother, whose conduct, since his wife's death, she had so strongly reprobated, they had never been upon good terms since the demise of the Marchioness; not that that lady had ranked among her favourites, but, while she lived, the Marquis had not given into those shameful excesses he had indulged in

in without scruple since. Besides the fortune she had inherited from her father, she had, by the will of a maiden-sister of her mother's, become possessed of her seat in Lancashire, and all her aunt's personals, which were very considerable; and, possibly out of gratitude to this maiden lady, or rather because she had never had an offer from a man of equal rank to her brother, she was, at this period of our story, though in her forty-seventh year, still unmarried.

Having lived so long apart from her family, her nephews had been hitherto merely known to her by name; and as she did not wish to appear to countenance their propensity to dissipation, she had never invited any of them to Highwood. But having been extremely rejoiced when she learned the prudent match her younger nephew had made, she thought proper to address him a letter of congratulation upon the occasion, in which, for his edification, she traced the genealogy of the fa-

mily of Endermay from so remote a period, that the Marquis, to whom Lord William imparted her letter, declared she seemed better versed in the origin of his family than he had ever been. Being, however, sensible of her intended compliment, he had, in concert with his daughter, invited her into Scotland; and she had intended visiting the Highlands during the ensuing summer; therefore sincerely did she grieve for the deceased Lady Zara, though she was very happy her son had survived her, as she could not bear the idea of such ancient titles falling to very distant branches; and her nephew's determination to spend at least a couple of months with her, was such a proof of his reformation, and of his attention to decorum, that most gracious was the reception she gave him, declaring that he was the very image of her deceased father, and infinitely handsomer than ever her brother had been: and as he did not wish to mix in society for the present, Lady Winifred's
mode

mode of life exactly suited his taste, as she moved by rule, and saw very little company, owing to her adherence to the fashions of past times, and to her firm resolution only to associate with people of family.

During the first month, Lord William seldom left home, never except to take a short airing; and his innate politeness taught him to listen very politely to her prolix dissertations respecting the Derwent family, though she did acknowledge that the Endermays were of still older date: and as this was her favourite subject, her nephew was repeatedly doomed to listen to the various intermarriages which had taken place in each, from the most remote up to the present times; and as he never absolutely yawned in her face, she made no doubt of having inspired him with proper respect for his and his late wife's illustrious ancestors.

A month having thus elapsed, which had barely sufficed for her Ladyship's recapitulation

tulation of the brave deeds of her ancestors, her nephew's natural vivacity rather revived, as her tales of past times had certainly had the good effect of banishing the present from his mind ; and as he had left off his weepers, she strongly encouraged his visiting among the neighbouring gentry, though she seldom left home herself ; and as the rides and walks round Highwood were very pleasant, the three months he had resolved to devote to retirement soon slipped away, and he began to wish for more society. The Earl of Algernon had joined a party at Brighton, and he felt half inclined to have followed him thither ; but as he had a great respect for Lord Endermay, he was fearful it might wound his feelings, were he to appear to have so soon forgotten his idolized daughter ; and surely were he, as yet, to join in the gaieties of Brighton, he might suppose he had not paid sufficient respect to her memory. He, therefore, heroically resolved to remain where he was till his brother came
into

into Cheshire, with whom he could spend the shooting season: he might then pay Montrose Castle a short visit; but as for spending another winter there, the Marquis must excuse him, though he should have no objection to making it his future summer residence; still, as he was now never likely to do the honours of it, since, upon the Marquis's demise, it would devolve to his son, he felt much less partial to a place where he should merely, in future, be deemed a visitor. Had his wife lived, he might, in time, have shone in the enviable lustre of a Scottish chieftain; but now, those honours would fall to the share of her son, and he must content himself with the portion he had received with her, upon the interest of which, he was convinced, he could make a very genteel figure. He had, to be sure, sold out of the Guards, to oblige Lady Zara—but he could again become a member of that corps: this was, however, a future consideration—he should consult with his bro-

ther—perhaps, after a time, he might make a second choice: and, soon after he had admitted the possibility of his giving his once beloved Lady Zara a successor, he rather unexpectedly met a very beautiful girl at a gentleman's house, where he called *en passant* during his morning's ride; and having frequently heard her spoken of before in terms of the greatest admiration, he paid her particular attention, and thought her to the full as handsome as his late wife; and, if report was to be depended upon, though not the heiress to a title and to Montrose Castle, and five-and-forty thousand a-year, she would, first and last, have no despicable fortune—no small recommendation, in his opinion, as he should reap no farther benefit from his union with the Scotch heiress, except, indeed, the Marquis soon departed this life for a better, and left him the sole guardianship of his son; but this he was very far from expecting, therefore thought he had better look out in time for another rich wife;

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but then, again, there were still greater obstacles likely to intervene in this case, than he had met with during his former courtship, since this young lady's father was a rigid Catholic, and, as such, certainly much less likely than the Marquis of Endermay to favour his suit.

Hitherto he had paid very little attention to what he had heard concerning this family ; but no sooner had he seen Catharine Langhton, than he became very anxious to be perfectly *au fait* of her family history, as he might then frame his plans with some likelihood of success ; his vanity (which had not decreased of late) leading him to think, that having persuaded the elegant, sensible, and accomplished Zara Montrose, who might have had even Dukes among her admirers, to accompany him privately to the altar, he should not find it a more difficult task to prevail upon the more juvenile Catharine Langhton to accompany him to Gretna Green, as he understood she was but just returned from

Italy, where she had been educated in a very strict convent. Therefore, though he was delighted with her beauty, he entertained rather a contemptible opinion of her understanding ; but having resolved to make himself acquainted with every particular likely to facilitate his schemes, he mentioned his morning *rencontre* to Lady Winifred, during tea.

Her Ladyship had not seen Miss Langhton, she told him, since her return from Italy, where she had spent the last six years ; adding, “ she was a beautiful child when she left England.”

“ And she is now a very handsome young woman,” said Lord William, “ but appears shy and uninformed.”

“ Educated as she has been, that does not surprise me,” rejoined Lady Winifred, “ for nuns are, in my opinion, very unfitted for the task of instructresses. She may be a good Catholic, but I am convinced she is very defective in point of accomplishments ; indeed, no enlightened mind
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could conform to the absurd and superstitious tenets which that religion holds forth to its votaries. I have often grieved that so ancient a family should still persist in their errors, for the Langhtons are lineally descended from a family of that name, that flourished during the Saxon Heptarchy; but their continuing Catholics consigns them almost to oblivion, and prevents them from shining in the senate, or seeking glory in the field; indeed, the present Mr. Langhton is even bigotted in his attachment to the creed of his ancestors, owing perhaps to his having, early in life, been secluded in a monastery: he, therefore, seldom mixes with his neighbours, and sees much less company than I do; though we are by no means actuated by the same motives, since I only exclude my inferiors from my table—he excludes every one who is not of his way of thinking upon religious subjects, which is extremely impolitic, as it may prevent his daughter from forming a respectable alliance, as she might

might pretend even to nobility, were she suffered to mix more in society."

Lord William was happy to find he should not mortally offend his aunt, were he to introduce this pretty Catholic into the family, and even Lord Endermay must think he had made a prudent choice; but not choosing to give the good Lady any suspicion of his intentions, he asked her when the Langhton family had first settled in Lancashire?

This was setting her upon her favourite hobby-horse; therefore, after taking a pinch of snuff, she thus resumed:—"The head of that family, in the reign of Richard the First, founded a monastery of Augustine monks in this county, which is now (having been abolished during the reign of Henry the Eighth) the seat of the present Mr. Langhton, his ancestors having, either by grant or purchase, come into possession of it at that period, since when it has been denominated Langhton Priory. A vow he made in Palestine, induced

duced Reginald de Langhton to erect the monastery, of which he was nominated abbot. The chapel still retains every mark of primeval grandeur; and the glorious feats of Reginald de Langhton in the Holy Land, are emblazoned upon three large windows towards the inner court; nay, the house itself has undergone very little alteration since the friars who inhabited it were suppressed. Some of the last abbot's furniture is still preserved, and his monument is really worthy admiration; but, of late years, few people have been allowed to visit the chapel, or to traverse the ancient Gothic cloisters, which are still in excellent preservation; and I know it is reckoned a very gloomy pile by many of the neighbouring families; but I revere it for its antiquity; and, should you wish it, I am convinced Mr. Langhton will not object to your visiting every thing worthy notice at the Priory, though he might not choose to introduce you to his daughter, as he would be extremely averse to her
marrying

marrying a Protestant. You would undoubtedly have the same objection to a Catholic, even were you, at any future period, inclined to make a second choice; therefore, for Miss Langhton's sake, I hope you will meet no more during your stay in these parts."

Lord William was prevented from making any reply, by the entrance of his aunt's humble companion, who had been to Preston to make some purchases; and, presuming she might wish to display her economy and her taste *tête-à-tête* with her Eadyship, he withdrew, and proceeded into the library, where he found the grey-headed house-steward arranging the fire. Lord William had frequently addressed the old man, and had thought him both clever and intelligent. Wishing, therefore, to hear his opinion of the Langhtons, which, he was convinced, would be infinitely more correct than his aunt's, he said, "I wish Mrs. Mason had not returned so soon, as she broke in upon my aunt's discourse, who

who was describing Langhton Priory to me ; and even, by her account, the inhabitants are a strange set."

" Indeed they are, my Lord ; I only wish you could see them all assembled at chapel ; to judge, by their melancholy looks and deep groans, they have all been great sinners ; indeed mirth has long been banished those walls ; even the servants are afraid to laugh, but in secret. However, I know they are not all such saints as they wish to appear, as I am intimate with the steward, and he, for one, loves a drop of good wine to his soul, and often makes out, on fast days, for abstaining from eating as much as he could wish : as for Mr. Langhton, he, I dare say, thinks he is in the high road to Heaven ; and if praying from morning to night, and sometimes all night, fasting, and self-mortification, will procure him a seat there, he may make sure of one. 'Tis a thousand pities, as his steward says, that he ever left the monastery where he had taken the vows, for he

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is still a monk in his heart, since he neither enjoys his large income himself, nor suffers any one else to benefit by his riches."

"Was he ever professed then?" enquired Lord William.

"He was a friar, my Lord, when he became heir to the Priory."

"Take a chair, Gordon, and give me the history of this pious race: I am anxious to know a little more about them, since I never understood monks could marry."

The highly-flattered steward seated himself at a respectable distance, and thus began.

"Money, my Lord, can make the Pope as supple as a glove, my informant Ashton, the steward, tells me; and yet Mr. Langhton believes his Holiness to be infallible, and that he holds the keys of Heaven, and can even absolve murderers, much more monks, from their vows: but the father of the present Mr. Langhton,
like

like his father before him, dedicated all his children, his eldest son excepted, to God ; and his heir caught his death in his twenty-seventh year, by remaining a whole winter night upon his knees, in the cold damp chapel. This misfortune induced the old gentleman to apply to the Pope, to have his other son released from his vows ; and the holy Father, as Ashton calls him, readily agreed to his wishes, not liking that the Langhton estates should devolve to a very distant branch of that family, who are Protestants : and so, my Lord, Mr. Basil Langhton having returned to England much against his will (if Ashton may be believed) was next ordered by his father to marry, to perpetuate the family name : a Catholic young lady was selected for him, and he became a husband. Soon after which the old gentleman died, and by his lady, who did not long survive her father-in-law, Mr. Langhton has only one daughter, a very fine girl, who has been shut up in a nunnery abroad, for the last
seven

seven years ; and had she had a brother, there she would have been fixed for life ; but as she is sole heiress to her father's riches, I suppose she will soon be married, though Ashton tells me Father Benedetto (an Italian monk, who was professed in the same convent where Mr. Langhton made his vows), the confessor and regulator of the household, does not approve of early marriages ; and as his will is law, Miss Langhton will not change her name yet a while, though her mother's fortune of thirty thousand pounds is settled upon her, independent of her father, and will be at her own disposal when she is of age, which may, as Ashton says, insure Miss Langhton a greater match, and, in some respects, freedom of choice, though, of course, she must marry a Catholic."

"No doubt," rejoined Lord William ; "and I fancy her mode of education would not render her a very desirable companion to a man of any other persuasion. But positively, Gordon, you have rendered
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me very curious to see this old mansion : I wish I could contrive to walk over it, without undergoing the penance of being introduced to the monkish owner. Could not you smuggle me in as a friend of your's, who, never having seen a monastery, is very anxious to walk over the gloomy abodes? we may seize an opportunity when the old *friar* is at his devotions, as I am not so anxious to see the chapel, as to walk over the cloisters and grounds, and that part of the house which was formerly appropriated to the holy monks for whom it was built."

" I shall feel myself greatly honoured by being allowed to smuggle your Lordship, as you are pleased to term it, into the old monastery ; and I think I can venture to insure your walking all over it, without fear of detection. Mr. Langhton always dines at one, and never remains above half an hour at table ; and from that time till three he spends in close conference

ence with his confessor, in his oratory : at three he goes to chapel, to some service or other—vespers, I suppose ; and as Ashton often absents himself from afternoon duty, we may remain till four with great safety, and may walk over every uninhabited room, and through all the old cloisters, unseen ; and, should chance bring Miss Langhton in our way, whom I have, more than once, met in the grounds, she will not peach, Ashton has assured me ; nay, I should not wonder if she was to fancy your curiosity to see her, instead of the old house, had drawn you thither. As she can't fail remarking the elegance of your figure, so you may trust to her vanity for keeping the secret."

Lord William smiled at the conclusion the old man had drawn, declaring, that he should be very sorry were Miss Langhton to be suspected of being privy to his proposed visit, since there was no knowing to what lengths the bigotry of her father might

might carry him, to prevent her forming any intimacy with a heretic. "But has she no female companion?" he enquired.

"She has a sort of governess, my Lord, as Mr. Langhton now styles her former nursery-maid—a poor, weak-brained, superstitious soul, as ever breathed: she was with her in the nunnery at Bologna, and is returned a compleat devotee, Ashton tells me; but you have nothing to fear from her, my Lord, as she is so near-sighted, she cannot see an inch beyond her nose; and when she does walk about the house, by way of saving time, I suppose, she is always telling her beads; besides, she seldom accompanies Miss Langhton in her rambles in the grounds: she thinks the bird is securely caged; and, faith, it would not be a very easy task for the young lady to take flight from thence, for the surrounding walls are nearly as high as those of the county prison, and I dare say she is never suffered to walk in the outer courts: but I will take care to keep
a good

a good look-out for Dame Stewart, if your Lordship will deign to pass for my friend."

Lord William, therefore, suffered himself to be persuaded to take the first step towards accomplishing the design he had in view; hinting to Gordon, that Lady Winifred must be kept in ignorance of this private expedition, as he knew she would highly disapprove of his condescending to appear as her steward's friend, by way of gratifying his curiosity, particularly after she had promised to solicit Mr. Langhton's leave for his visiting his dreary secluded abode.

CHAP. IV.

THE more Lord William pondered upon what he had learned from Gordon, the more convinced he became, that he should act very prudently in choosing Catharine Langhton for his future partner for life, since it would effectually secure his reformation ; as a married man, he might again associate with his former companions, without falling into any of his former errors : the interest of his late wife's private fortune, in addition to the wreck of his own, would enable him to maintain a very elegant establishment, though not to keep up the same appearance he had done, as the

husband of Lady Zara Montrose ; but when Miss Langhton came of age, her fortune would make a very pretty addition to his income : and as he had renounced gaming, and was resolved to live within bounds, he was convinced that he should be able to vie with most young men of fashion in point of expenditure ; and as he was resolved to suffer the fair Catharine to persevere in the tenets of her own religion, he made no doubt of soon deprecating the anger of Mr. Langhton, who must, whether he forgave them or not, leave his estates to his only daughter ; though probably, should he continue to resent her having married a Protestant, Father Benedetto might secure his personals : but the Marquis of Endermay had set Mr. Langhton so excellent an example, he was convinced that he would equally extend the olive branch, after a few formal concessions had been made, and he had tied himself down to allow his wife, and any daughters she might have, the free exercise

exercise of the Catholic religion; nay, were the old bigot to make a point of it, even his sons should be educated in that persuasion. Such were his private reflections after he had dismissed Gordon; and, when he joined Lady Winifred at supper, he cautiously avoided recurring to the Langhton family, even hinting an intention of speedily visiting Woodville, where his brother was expected early in September, and this was the 26th of August.

Her Ladyship saw so little company, that she did not relish the idea of parting with him, as he was a most pleasant guest, now he had perfectly recovered his wonted spirits; then he played extremely well at piquet, and was teaching her chess: she, therefore, felt very anxious to detain him at Highwood, till he proposed returning to Montrose Castle; hinting, that there would doubtless be a very gay, if not a very riotous party, at Woodville; and as he was not yet out of mourning, she hardly conceived it would be decorous for

him to join such a set ; and though she made no doubt of his having entirely forsworn gaming and racing, she thought that the longer he kept out of the way of temptation, the less likely he was to break the excellent resolutions he had formed ; and as Lord William had purposely led her to believe he wished to leave Lancashire, with affected deference to her judicious advice, he promised to remain at least another month at Highwood, during which period he conceived he should have an opportunity of judging whether Catharine Langhton was inclined to follow the example of her predecessor ; while the flattered Lady Winifred attributed his remaining her inmate, to the ascendancy she had obtained over his mind, which led her to censure her brother with greater severity than ever, since to his bad example alone did she now attribute the follies and errors of his sons.

The ensuing four days were devoted, by Lord William, to forming and rejecting plans

plans respecting Miss Langhton ; and, on the fifth, having informed his aunt that he should dine from home, he met Gordon, as had been agreed upon, at the entrance of Chedworth, at the other extremity of which stood Langhton Priory ; and, having been admitted through the massive gates by the porter, his companion ushered him into Mr. Ashton's apartments, which opened into the outer court, and introduced him to his friend as a relation, who was come down from London to see him, and who was very anxious to see the inside of Langhton Priory.

Ashton, who frequently regaled at Gordon's expence, readily agreed to lead the young man over all the apartments unoccupied by the family, as Mr. Langhton was safe in his oratory.

Lord William paid very little attention to the boasted inner cloisters, painted windows, and gloomy apartments, as he had not imbibed his aunt's veneration for every thing that savoured of antiquity, and

was merely anxious to catch a glimpse of the fair form which was inclosed within this dreary prison ; but not a single female crossed their path. Therefore, when they returned from their survey of this once celebrated pile, his Lordship said he would take a stroll in the grounds, while the two friends emptied their bottle, as it would be no treat to either, to walk over the paths they had often before trod together.

Ashton made no objection to his doing so ; merely saying, “ should you meet any of the family, young man, only bow in silence : I will account for your being within our holy precincts, even to the satisfaction of Father Benedetto.”

Lord William promised to conform to his instructions ; and Ashton having unlocked a small door leading into the grounds, he found himself at liberty to range wherever he pleased within the walls. The grounds, or rather gardens, were laid out as he presumed they had originally been, when the pious Reginald superintended

tended the planners of them; and they were, on every side, surrounded with walls at least twelve feet high. The long strait walks, shaded with immense horse-chesnut trees, or elms, of very ancient growth, which effectually excluded the sun, and almost the light, were, he presumed, appropriated to private meditation by the inhabitants of the Priory. At the farther extremity of the center avenue, was a rude chapel of Gothic architecture, which had evidently been coeval with the original structure; and as the Langhtons were not fond of ruins, and had, besides, a great reverence for every part of the ancient building, it had been, like the mansion, repaired, we will not say beautified, by every succeeding inhabitant of the monastic domains; and was still (having been dedicated to the Virgin) resorted to by the family, upon particular holidays, and during the feasts, or jubilees, formerly so strictly observed in the monasteries in all Catholic countries.

Wishing to examine the inside of this holy structure, Lord William ascended the steps leading into the interior, which, not being decorated as it was upon the grand occasions heretofore mentioned, appeared to him damp, dark, and gloomy, as the mind of its present owner. He, therefore, hastily quitted the dismal place, and once more walked round the gardens; proposing thoroughly to reconnoitre the walls, as he wished to fix upon the most likely place to scale them, should he be obliged to have recourse to such a measure, though he began to fear he should not see the divinity who had brought him thither; and he had his doubts whether he should ever meet with such another opportunity, during his stay in Lancashire. As for addressing her in writing, that was next to impossible, since all the servants, male and female, were, he understood, under the immediate direction of Father Benedetto, whom he despaired of bribing to second his plans, as he felt that it was
much

much more to the monk's interest, that Miss Langhton should remain single. He was, therefore, reluctantly returning towards the door by which he had entered the garden, when he perceived a female descending from a stone terrace, which ran all along the back front of the house: she made for one of the shady walks, the sun being very powerful: his heart beat high, as he was convinced, from her figure and light step, though she was still at too great a distance to distinguish her features, that it must be Miss Langhton: he, therefore, remained stationary, convinced, in his own mind, that she had seen him from one of the windows, and was come to take a nearer survey of him. He, however, thought it most prudent to retreat as she advanced, till she seated herself under a spreading mountain-ash, entirely out of sight of the house. This made him hastily resolve to make his immediate vicinity known to her, as he was well aware that he might never again have a similar opportunity

portunity of declaring his regard for her ; and, though certainly not so much in love as he had been, even at first sight, with Lady Zara Montrose, he sincerely hoped that she would incline a favourable ear to his suit. Therefore, taking every precaution not to alarm her, he presented himself before her, candidly acknowledging how and why he had gained admittance into her sequestered abode, and the presumptive hope which now led him to trespass upon her solitary haunts, since he durst not hope that his suit would be sanctioned by her father ; making use of every likely argument to induce her to receive his vows : and as he was perfectly sincere in his professions of regard, and could be very eloquent in his own behalf, his speeches had their due effect upon a young girl, who, having been educated in total seclusion, was, for the first time in her life, addressed by an elegant fascinating young man, for whom she already felt a sentiment of preference. His being, as
4 she

she supposed, a Protestant, was of little moment, in her opinion, since she understood that nine-tenths of her countrymen professed the reformed religion ; still she felt extremely embarrassed, and stammered out a few incoherent words, which were not, however, likely to drive her lover to despair. But, as even moments were precious, Lord William again urged his suit in the most insinuating terms ; requesting permission to address her in writing, since his agitation absolutely prevented him from doing justice to his cause, and petitioning for a few lines in return.

The much-more-agitated Catharine pleaded the impossibility of either writing or receiving letters, unknown to her father and confessor.

Lord William was not easily discouraged : he could be very eloquent when his heart was set upon any point ; and he, at last, succeeded in obtaining her promise to keep their intended correspon-

dence a secret, even from the monk; pointing out where he could, by means of a string, contrive to let down his letters, and, by the same conveyance, receive her's in return; assuring her, that he should find no difficulty in scaling the walls without side.

They were still debating this point, and she was imploring him never to venture into the garden after dark, as there were spring-guns and men-traps always set at night, when, to the no small alarm of both, they perceived Mrs. Stewart at the other end of the walk.

“Remain where you are,” cried Catharine, shoving him among the trees—“she cannot see to this distance. I will give her the meeting, and return with her into the house—she is only coming in search of me;” darting forward, but not before his Lordship had pressed her trembling hand to his lips, and repeated, “Remember the shrubbery-corner—At this hour
to-morrow,

to-morrow, you shall find a letter there from me ; and, the next day, I flatter myself you will favour me with an answer."

She merely looked an affirmative ; and, resuming her book, gave the old woman the meeting, with whom she returned into the house ; while his Lordship, taking a more private path, hastened towards the door by which he had entered the garden, and found Ashton and Gordon enjoying themselves over their bottle. The former asked his Lordship how he liked the gardens ? He spoke his real opinion of them very freely, but did not, it may be supposed, mention his *rencontre* with Miss Langhton ; and a look he gave Gordon, made the old man declare they must be going. They, therefore, almost immediately departed ; Gordon proceeded to Highwood, and his Lordship walked to a neighbouring village, where he had left his horses and servant, and where he dined, wishing to devote some hours to reflection ; and, upon mature deliberation, he

was

was convinced that the success of his plan entirely depended upon the promptitude and secrecy of his measures: he, therefore, resolved not to put any one into his confidence; but, not to excite his aunt's curiosity, he returned home in time for her tea; and, when he retired for the night, he sat down to address the fair Catharine, in terms likely to render her as anxious for emancipation, as he was to liberate her from her present state of bondage; and as few men were more competent to the task, his letter was exactly calculated to produce the desired effect, and to give her every hope of being received with the greatest cordiality by all his relatives; hinting that, though the difference in their religious principles obliged him to address her thus privately, yet, should she deign to place her happiness in his keeping, he meant to allow her full liberty of conscience, even to her retaining a confessor in the house, if she thought it would contribute to her felicity. We shall not, however,

however, detail how he contrived to carry on his epistolary correspondence ; suffice it to say, that, in less than six weeks after their first meeting, he succeeded in quieting all her scruples ; and as the life she led at the Priory was even more irksome than that she had led during her abode in the nunnery at Bologna, where she enjoyed the society of young people of her own age, she consented, without much persuasion, to accompany the young widower to Gretna Green ; and they were already so far north, that his Lordship was convinced six hours advance (even admitting they were pursued) would suffice to distance any one who might undertake to follow them ; but, to render his success more certain, after fixing the evening for their elopement, Lord William left Highwood, under pretence of visiting a friend who resided in the vicinity, and at whose house, he informed his aunt, he proposed sleeping a couple of nights ; instead of which, he hastened, merely accompanied by his
valet,

valet, to the *Green*, to engage the reverend forger of matrimonial fetters to be in readiness; and, having calculated his stages, he ordered horses to be in waiting at a certain time, at the various inns at which he purposely stopped on his return.

Miss Langhton slept in a room adjoining that of her purblind governess; but as it was upon the first floor, she agreed that there would be no difficulty in descending into the garden from her window, by the help of a ladder, which would also serve to facilitate her scaling the high walls which surrounded her gloomy prison; and so dextrously did Lord William manage matters, that it was not till some time after Catharine had been missed, it was discovered how she had made her escape; and when it was ascertained that she had risked her neck to obtain her freedom, no one could divine with whom she was gone—a favoured lover, it was supposed; but then, how had they contrived to commence or to carry on a correspondence?

Mr.

Mr. Langhton and Father Benedetto maintained, that some of the domestics must have been in the secret; while they, one and all, declared their total ignorance of her intentions; offering to affirm, even upon oath, that they had neither connived at any meetings between her and her lover, nor at their supposed intercourse by letter: and as they were all nearly as bigotted to their religious tenets as their master, and in full as much awe of Father Benedetto, both him and Mr. Langhton were inclined to believe they spoke the truth. Mrs. Stewart declared, they had never met with any gentleman twice, during the few visits they had paid in the neighbourhood.

“Then she must have gone off with some foreigner who has followed her to England,” exclaimed Mr. Langhton, “and they have taken the road to some of the southern ports, meaning to embark for Italy.”

At last, however, the fresh track of the wheels of a carriage were traced in a byelane

lane leading towards the main north road ; and, at the first post-town, the servant, who had proceeded thither, learned whither the fugitives had bent their steps, and the hour at which they went through : this was all the intelligence he could obtain, if we except that he was assured the gentleman was an Englishman, and a very fine young fellow.

This certainty by no means deprecated Mr. Langhton's resentment, as he was now convinced that her companion was not a Catholic—no young man of that persuasion would have acted so basely ; besides, they would not, in that case, have taken the road to Scotland. Mrs. Stewart fully participated in his anger against his daughter, as she must have been very easily duped, he observed, if she had not, as he suspected, facilitated their elopement ; and as there were no hopes of overtaking the runaway, all idea of pursuit was given up. Therefore, during three days, they remained in their uneasy state of suspense, when
a letter

a letter from Lady William Albany (her husband having chosen to resume his own name, never having borne that of Montrose but through courtesy, and well aware that the Marquis of Endermay would not approve of its descending to any but his own grandchildren) informed her father upon whom she had bestowed her hand and fortune; dwelling very forcibly upon her Lord's promises, respecting her being allowed the free exercise of her religion, and urging every likely plea to reconcile him to their stolen match.

Mr. Langhton was pleased to find she had married a man of rank and family, and of large fortune; yet he did not choose to pronounce her pardon, at least at present; and Father Benedetto, who felt it was to his interest to widen the breach (since, though the estates must devolve to Lady William Albany and her children, he knew the personals would afford very pretty picking to the members of the church), certainly helped to inflame his resentment;

artfully

artfully hinting, that, by withholding the olive branch, he might perhaps induce Lord William to enter the holy pale of the mother-church.

A very cool letter was, therefore, written by the wily monk, in Mr. Langhton's name, importing that, except his Lordship embraced the Catholic faith, he should ever henceforth consider them as aliens to his blood, which was returned by the messenger who had brought the bride's epistle to the Priory. By the same conveyance, the bridegroom had written to Lady Winifred, who thus learned Miss Langhton's recent elopement, which had been kept a profound secret by the young lady's family; and she was very much puzzled to conceive how her nephew had managed matters: still, as Lady William's connexions were very honourable, and she bid fair, in time, to be mistress of one of the most ancient seats in England, and might renounce the erroneous tenets in which she had been educated, had her nephew

phew been out of mourning for his late wife, she would not have felt herself offended by his recent marriage; but, as she was not deficient in point of feeling, she sympathized too sincerely with the Marquis of Endermay, to admit of her congratulating the bride and bridegroom; and as she was not in the habit of forbearing to speak her sentiments, she wrote very freely to her nephew, highly blaming him for his precipitancy; and strongly reprobating his having married a Catholic, whom he had, in consequence, probably entirely alienated from her father.

The bridegroom was rather hurt when he received her answer, as he had flattered himself that she would have mediated between him and Mr. Langhton: he made, however, very light of her disapprobation to his wife, whom he soon consoled under her father's avowed displeasure; and as Lord Algernon, to whom he had also written, had given them a very cordial invitation to Woodville, thither they proceeded

ceeded upon receipt of his letter, as Lord William had no country-house, and London was too empty to make him wish to return thither; and they were so kindly received by the Earl, that the bride was soon reconciled to being forbid the Priory, as she felt assured that Lord William would have been very awkwardly situated there, had Mr. Langhton been inclined to admit him; and his Lordship, upon serious reflection, rather rejoiced at the old man's obstinacy, as he was well convinced that their minds would never assimilate, and that he should probably, had he become his inmate, have incurred the everlasting displeasure of the old bigot, by treating some of his superstitious notions with the contempt they deserved: as for the Marquis of Derwent, as he had no farther expectations from him, and knew that he was even more deficient in paternal affection than Mr. Langhton had ever shewn himself (who had certainly always been actuated by a wish to insure his daughter's happiness

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ness in the next world, admitting that he had not seemed inclined to adopt the likely means of rendering her so in this), he set his displeasure at nought; but he did feel a few qualms of conscience, while addressing the Marquis of Endermay upon the subject, as he felt convinced that he would, and with justice, think he had not paid sufficient respect to the memory of his late wife, as he had not been seven months a widower when he carried off Catharine Langhton; and the Marquis had acted so liberally by him, that he half blamed himself, now it was too late, for not having previously consulted him, as he fancied he could have given him unanswerable reasons for hastening his intended marriage. As for the young Douglas, Malcolm, he felt assured that he would never have reason to repent his having so speedily made a second choice, since it would probably only endear him the more to his grandfather; and, if he lived, he would be most amply provided for, both
during

during the Marquis of Endermay's life, and after his decease, when he would rank much higher in the scale of society than he (Lord William) probably ever should. However, if his father-in-law resented the sort of slight he had paid the memory of Lady Zara, he must give up visiting at Montrose Castle, at least for the present, and trust to time to soften his displeasure.

CHAP. V.

THERE was a large party assembled at Woodville when the bride and bridegroom arrived, among whom were some ladies of rank and fashion, to whose notice Lord Algernon particularly recommended the youthful

youthful Lady William, whose unaffected simplicity, real *naïveté*, and sweetness of temper, soon rendered them her friends; and from them she soon learned to decorate her elegant figure in the most becoming style, and, in a very short time, to enact the woman of fashion *à merveille*. Lord William was, therefore, proud of his choice, and looked forward with delight to introducing her at St. James's, and into the routine of fashionable life, which he proposed resuming when he returned to London.

As he had foreseen, the Marquis of Endermay had been more than hurt—he had been extremely shocked, when he learned that his son-in-law had so speedily made a second choice; nay had, while he supposed him still sincerely grieving for his irreparable loss, been carrying on a clandestine correspondence with another heiress, with whom he had finally eloped. His answer to his letter was, therefore, so cool, and so expressive of his displeasure, that Lord

William resolved never again, uninvited, to visit his old castle ; he might educate his son as he pleased—he should never interfere with his arrangements, nor seek to rival him in the boy's regard, as he was now resolved to make himself amends for his late life of seclusion ; indeed he thought it but justice to make his beloved Catharine ample amends for her father's want of feeling towards her, and was convinced that he could not do it more effectually, than by introducing her into the *beau monde*, and suffering her to enjoy all the diversions London afforded. He, therefore, resolved to take her to town the first week in January ; proposing again to astonish the high world, by the elegance of his equipages, and the taste he meant to display in furnishing his house ; as the fortune he had received with his late wife, in addition to the small remains of his own, would enable him, he conceived, again to launch out into every fashionable extravagance ; and, when his wife came of
age,

age, he should be enabled to demand thirty thousand pounds more of Mr. Langhton, who was neither immortal nor very young ; and at least eight thousand a-year must devolve to his wife in time. His children by her would, of course, at her death, share the entailed estates ; and, during their joint lives, he would give them house-room, and, if they were boys, afford them an opportunity of rising in the army or navy, as Mr. Langhton did not seem inclined to stipulate any of them should be brought up Catholics, or devoted to God. The girls, if he had any, must trust to their beauty for getting husbands, or to becoming favourites with aunt Winifred, who would certainly descend from her altitudes sooner or later ; and she had no inconsiderable fortune to leave behind her.

Such were the resolves of the still imprudent Lord William, whose father having returned from Spa, kindly congratulated him upon his talent for managing love-affairs, since few young men of his age

could boast of having obtained the hands of two very rich heiresses, within the short space of two years; and he particularly approved of his late match, as he justly conceived that it had greatly mortified Lord Endermay, who had, more than once, taken the liberty to criticise the conduct of his brother Marquis, particularly after his daughter had married into the family, and this Lord Derwent had never forgiven: he, therefore, resolved to mortify him, by taking the greatest notice of the present Lady William Albany: he, however, failed in the attempt, since the Marquis of Endermay despised him too cordially, to feel offended at any thing he either said or did.

The Earl of Algernon was not actuated by his father's vindictive motives, when he had expressed his satisfaction at his favourite brother's having again entered the holy pale, as he conceived that he had taken a very prudent step, since he had now lost all chance of becoming even a tenant for life at Montrose Castle: and,
had

had Lord William acted in conformity to the resolutions he had once formed, even Lord Endermay might, in time, have forgiven the slight he had shewn his daughter; but he was no sooner settled in a very handsome house in Dover-street, which he had fitted up in the first style of fashion, ere he was again surrounded by all his former dissipated friends; and Lady William dashed into fashionable life, with full as much avidity as he did, her recluse life having given her a greater zest for pleasure and company; and as she was positively ignorant of the value of money, and of the necessary expences attending house-keeping upon such a scale, she had no idea that they were living beyond their income, when they were spending ten thousand a-year, as they merely appeared to be living like other folks who moved in the same circle. Her evening parties were, therefore, very brilliant; and, for the first three months, she might be said to live in a constant crowd, either at home or abroad.

Lord Algernon was of most of their parties; but, when he understood that his brother was again a member of several gaming-clubs, and heard of his serious losses at hazard, he did venture to hint to him, that old Langhton might prove tough, and that he might not, like the generous Marquis of Endermay, put him in possession of his wife's fortune, when she did come of age, except he attacked him in law, as he feared the confessor would not be inclined to favour him, and that he would secure all the ready money when he died.

Lord William merely laughed at his brother's croaking, as he styled it; affirming that a lucky run of the dice would always keep him afloat: besides, his father had promised to procure him a diplomatic situation, as he did not feel inclined to repurchase into the Guards.

Lord Algernon said no more, though he placed but little faith in the Marquis's promises, with whom he merely continued
upon

upon speaking-terms, as he had long been a rival too near the Throne, to be a favourite with Lord Derwent. Willing, however, to contribute all in his power to Lord William's advancement, he brought him into Parliament, in the spring, for his own borough, which, as he had expected, paved the way to his obtaining a very lucrative post under Government, which induced Lord William to see himself, in imagination, one of the future Secretaries of State. He had not answered the Marquis of Endermay's last letter, of course, all correspondence had ceased between that nobleman and him ; though he frequently heard of his son, through the medium of some of his Scotch friends, and was informed that he throve apace, and was, as he had foreseen, his grandfather's idol.

Six months spent in a continual round of dissipation, almost satiated Lady William, who, being in the family-way, wished to have left town immediately after the summer birth-day ; but, as her dissipated

husband still had a very great regard for her, he would not consent to her removing farther than Richmond, where he hired a very pleasant villa, which was always open to all his gay companions; and there, early in August, he became the father of a fine girl, who was named Rosalie, after her Ladyship's mother, and out of compliment to her father, who had made several vows, in former times, at the shrine of St. Rosalia. She did not, of course, suckle the child; and as soon as she was sufficiently recovered, she accompanied Lord William to Bath, from whence they proceeded to Derwent-House in Herefordshire, where, by special invitation from its owner, they spent their Christmas holidays; but returned to London early in January, where they again resumed their usual style of living: therefore, by the end of April, his Lordship began to find that he had verified Lord Algernon's prognostics, having lost what might be deemed an immense sum among his gambling associates;

ates; and he was well aware that the income he derived from his place, in addition to his shattered fortune, would not enable him much longer to support his present extravagant style of living: old Langhton did not, it should appear, break very fast; Father Benedetto still kept his anger alive; and he feared it might prove a difficult matter to raise money upon Lady William's expectations, since the birth of her daughter had lessened her own claims upon the old Priory. She was, besides, again in a likely way to encrease his family, and, of course, his expences; he must, therefore, devise some scheme to ward off the approach of poverty, when he recollected that he had a remarkable fleet horse, of whose powers he conceived none of the knowing ones were aware: he had twice obliged him to exert his speed when alone, therefore resolved to seize the first favourable opportunity, when his gay companions were in the humour, to offer to ride him a given distance against time.

The first hint he gave of his intentions was joyfully hailed by his dissipated associates ; and it was finally settled, that he should ride this said animal (which he represented to be, and which was in reality, a common roadster) from Tyburn Turnpike to Watford, and back again, within an hour and ten minutes, for a bet of five hundred guineas ; and it was also agreed, that the wager should be decided within the four-and-twenty hours : to which he very readily acceded, as the horse had been, in some respects, in training for this very purpose ; as he hoped to make the hundreds thousands, if he did no more, by his private bets ; and certainly, in that respect, he was even more successful than he had expected ; and made no doubt, as the weather was very fine, and the roads remarkably good, that he should win with ease.

Therefore, at six the following evening, he started in excellent spirits, anticipating his triumphant return. A very large sum
was

was now pending upon his success; and it was generally believed that he would have won his wager, if, in coming down rather a steep descent near Kilburn Wells, not being sufficiently upon his guard, his horse had not fallen, and thrown him to a considerable distance; in consequence of which he was taken up to all appearance lifeless, and was, in that state, conveyed to a gentleman's house in sight, when the first surgeons in London were summoned to his assistance, who did succeed in restoring him to his senses, but gave no hopes of his recovering from the dreadful effects of his fall.

Lord Algernon, who had been amongst the betters upon this melancholy occasion, was extremely shocked when he learned what had befallen his favourite brother; and severely did he reproach himself for having countenanced (he had not encouraged) his making such a hazardous attempt to obtain a fresh supply of cash.

He had flown to his assistance; the moment he was informed of his accident, and remained with him till he recovered his senses. Having previously heard the surgeon's opinion respecting the injuries he had sustained, he reluctantly undertook to impart the distressing intelligence to Lady William, now in the sixth month of her second pregnancy; and, in consequence, proceeded into Dover-street; and, with due caution and genuine feeling, he informed her that his brother had been thrown from his horse, and was certainly very much hurt; but the surgeons whom he had left with him, could not, at present, ascertain how far his life might be endangered from the bruises he had received.

Though he had, of late, rather neglected his wife, and she had learned that he was in the habit of risking what she deemed immense sums at hazard, which must, she conceived, ultimately prove their ruin, she still felt the warmest affection for her imprudent

prudent husband, and deeply regretted his having met with such a misfortune; expressing the greatest wish to see him.

The Earl hoped she might be permitted to visit him in the course of a few days; at present, she must not think of such a thing, as absolute solitude and quiet had been expressly ordered by the surgeons, and would, of course, be strictly enforced by his attendants; besides, in her present situation, even Lord William would object to her leaving town.

As she had a very high opinion of her brother-in-law, she reluctantly agreed to postpone visiting her husband; though she was well convinced, she told him, that he was in great danger, admitting that he still lived, which she rather doubted: and as the Earl was aware that she must soon learn her surmises were but too just, he endeavoured to prepare her for the worst that could happen; and, after promising to see her again early in the morning, he returned to his dying brother, who closed his

his worldly career on the fourth morning after his accident ; and sincerely was he regretted by his disconsolate wife, and affectionate brother, who seriously resolved upon reforming his own conduct, as he considered Lord William's untimely death as a very serious warning, by which he ought to profit.

The Marquis of Derwent had, of course, heard of his son's fall, and the likely consequences ; but as he had a very great dread of death, and could not bear to be reminded that he was himself mortal, he did not choose to visit him, alledging that he could not have borne the shock the sight of him would have occasioned him ; and as for the widow and child, and her unborn infant, he presumed Lord William had made a will ; affecting to suppose they must, in consequence, be extremely well provided for : at all events, her Ladyship had thirty thousand pounds in reserve, and Mr. Langhton's estates were secured to them. It would, therefore, merely have
been

been a compliment, he told some of his acquaintance, were he to pay the widow a visit of condolence, and could only increase her and his own grief for their joint loss.

The Earl of Algernon *was not blessed with such refined feelings*: his brother certainly had made a will, in which he had equally divided the small remains of the noble fortune he had received with Lady Zara Montrose, between his widow, his son by his former wife, the little Rosalie, and her unborn brother; and Lady William's own fortune of thirty thousand pounds, he left wholly at her own disposal; particularly recommending her to the protection of the Earl, who had sworn to consider her henceforth as a beloved sister. To the Marquis of Endermay, he had left a hundred guineas for a ring; and, in a letter addressed to that nobleman, which he had dictated to his brother the day before he died, he had very severely condemned his
own

own late conduct, and lamented his inability to make a more suitable provision for his eldest child, since he had thought it his duty to bequeath at least an equal share of his remaining property to Lady William, her daughter, and his unborn infant, as Mr. Langhton would very probably never be reconciled to her, and might not feel inclined, previous to her becoming of age, (and she was but nineteen), to contribute, in the smallest degree, towards her pecuniary wants.

Lord Algernon dispatched this letter, and a copy of his will, express to the Marquis, the very day his brother died, who had nominated him sole executor; and most honourably did he acquit himself of the task, as he even offered to settle all Lord William's debts of honour respecting the race himself, rather than farther diminish the comparative small sum he had left behind him. But the gay companions of the deceased, resolving not to be outdone
in

in generosity, absolutely refused to receive a farthing, unanimously declaring the bets void.

The Marquis of Derwent, to whom Lord William had bequeathed a ring, when told of this circumstance, gave them great credit for their generosity ; though he could not suppose, he said, that their receiving so small a sum would have materially injured the widow or children : but as he had neither been consulted respecting the will, nor appointed joint executor with Lord Algernon, he did not conceive he had any right to make any enquiries into the affairs of the deceased.

Not so did the Marquis of Endermay reason, as he answered Lord Algernon's explanatory letter, which accompanied his packet, in person ; choosing to follow his son-in-law to the grave, as he no longer remembered his having offended him, he said ; he merely recollected that he was the father of his beloved grandson, and, as such, entitled to every mark of his respect:

spect: nor would he (as he found, by Lord William's will, that his widow would be but slenderly provided for, should her father remain inexorable) suffer Lord Algernon to make over the stock his brother had bequeathed his eldest son, insisting upon presenting it to the little Rosalie; declaring his intention of placing an equal sum in the Funds for the youthful Malcolm, by way of fulfilling his father's intentions; though, as he was his heir, he should certainly make him an adequate allowance to his future expectations, when he became acquainted with the real value of money: and, as a further proof of his generous regard for Lady William Albany, he insisted upon her removing into Arlington-street the moment he arrived in town, thinking she would be more retired than she could be in Portland-place with her brother-in-law, and would, besides, have nothing to remind her of her husband, since she had never visited the Marquis during his life-time; and in his house he

was

was resolved she should remain as long as she found it convenient, or met with a smaller abode, either in London or elsewhere, where she fancied she might be more comfortable; and, had she been his own daughter, he could not have given her, under similar circumstances, a kinder reception: and, immediately after the funeral, in conjunction with the Earl, to whom he proved a very able coadjutor, he employed himself in settling Lord William's affairs, whose town-house, furniture, and carriages, one only being reserved for the use of the widow, were all disposed of as speedily as circumstances admitted, and with as little loss as could have been expected; and fortunate it was that Lady William had two such staunch friends, as she was almost immediately deserted by all her fashionable acquaintance, who soon learned that she was not left in sufficiently good circumstances, to enable her to keep up her late style of living; indeed it was reported that Lord William's fortune had
all

all devolved to his son by his first wife ; of course, it was supposed that her Ladyship was entirely at the mercy of the Marquis of Endermay, who was the most unfashionable cynic of his age, to be found in the Peerage : and as for visiting Lady William at his house, that was impossible ; indeed their *fine feelings*, like Lord Derwent's, would have prevented them from attempting to console her under this sudden reverse of fortune, even had she removed into Portland-place ; and thus was she, at a very early period, taught to appreciate the advantage of having moved in what was deemed the higher circles : and as she now severely condemned herself for having led so dissipated a life, she could not help, at times, fancying that she had been deservedly punished for her disobedience towards her father, and for having married a heretic ; as she had frequently been assured, that the vengeance of Heaven never failed to overtake those who were guilty of so heinous a sin : and as she

she soon felt the sincerest regard for the Marquis of Endermay, she did not scruple to acknowledge to him, that she felt very anxious to receive her father's forgiveness, previous to her fixing upon her future plan of life ; expressing a wish to address him, in writing, to that effect.

The Marquis, though he severely condemned the unfeeling bigot, as he deemed Mr. Langhton, wishing, nevertheless, to set the mind of the young widow at ease, offered to address her father in her behalf, as she was in too low spirits to do justice to her feelings ; nor did he choose to read to her what he wrote to Mr. Langhton, whose feelings he very severely probed, though he addressed him very politely ; merely requesting he would pronounce the young widow's forgiveness, since she required no more at his hands ; for, though Lord William had not left her in affluence, she had made herself many friends (among whom he ranked himself, not to mention the Earl of Algernon, who had behaved in
the

the most liberal manner upon the late melancholy occasion), who would provide for all her wants, cherish her as they would a daughter, and firmly assert her rights, both now and hereafter, to the utmost of their power.

Such was the purport of the letter, which the Marquis purposely sent, by a special messenger, to the Priory, with orders to deliver it into the hands of Mr. Langhton, and to wait for his answer.



CHAP. VI.

MR. Langhton had, it may be supposed, learned Lord William's death, and had surmised, from the hints the editors of the

newspapers had inserted, that he had not died very rich; still he had not felt inclined to address his widowed daughter in the language of condolment, as he was by no means sorry to hear her vile seducer from the path of duty, had expiated his crime with his life; and it may be supposed, Father Benedetto attributed Lord William's accident to the divine wrath, and by no means endeavoured to soften Mr. Langhton in behalf of his daughter; when, to the infinite surprise of both, the Marquis of Endermay's letter arrived at the Priory; and, as his Lordship had hoped and expected, the contents roused both Mr. Langhton's pride and his long dormant regard for his only child. The monk was present when he received it, and felt both anxious and uneasy while his patron was perusing it, never having seen him so much agitated before.

Having twice read the impressive missive, he handed it to the confessor, saying, "What line of conduct ought I to pursue,

pursue, Father?—The messenger waits for an answer, and I think we must convince this proud titled heretic, that Catholics understand their duty to the full as well as he does.”

The monk bowed his head in silence, and deliberately perused the well-worded epistle. That Mr. Langhton was favourably inclined towards the young widow, it did not require his intuitive penetration to discover; and, were he to endeavour to withhold the solicited pardon, he should be working against the stream. Wolsey, he reflected, had governed Henry the Eighth, till he ventured to contradict him in a favourite point, and the Reformation had been the consequence of his folly; nor did he himself approve of Lady William Albany's remaining under the protection of Lord Endermay, who, he had heard, bore a most excellent character, and, what was more to the purpose, was a man of exalted rank, and in possession of a princely fortune; and as he was an English Baron

in right of his grandmother, he had an hereditary seat in the British House of Peers; therefore, should Mr. Langhton die while his daughter remained estranged from him, such a man, acting in conjunction with the Earl of Algernon, might set aside any will he might make inimical to his daughter's interest: the Marquis was, besides, too nearly connected with the widow (as her daughter was sister to his grandson), not to render it absolutely necessary that she should be removed from under his care. He therefore, with his usual deep art, affected to be extremely moved by the strong picture the Marquis had drawn of Lady William Albany's state of mind; adding, "Indeed, my dear Sir, you must be thoroughly reconciled to our beloved stray sheep; she must be again received into our own flock; we must not suffer the salvation of her precious babe to be endangered, nor suffer her unborn infant to open its eyes among heretics. The Marquis of Endermay is an honour to his

VOL. I. G country;

country ; had he been a Catholic, I should have pronounced him a saint : therefore, his own religious principles will teach him to endeavour to persuade our beloved Lady William to abjure what he deems her errors ; or, at all events, he will insist upon her next child's, should it prove a boy, being brought up a Protestant ; and, should she consent, the sin will fall upon our heads, for suffering her to remain exposed to temptation. She must be recalled to the Priory, since I am sure you would wish your grandson should be born within these holy walls, and since who knows but her present, or unborn child, may be the means of converting their unbelieving brother."

These arguments were so exactly calculated to meet the approbation of the person to whom they were addressed, who could not bear the idea of his daughter being under any obligation to a heretic, even of the highest rank, that he resolved to address both the Marquis and his daughter, and to request that she would immediately

diately return to the Priory, the gates of which had merely been closed against her dissipated husband, but would ever have been opened to her, he assured her, had she, during his lifetime, sought his presence : and as the monk was fearful his patron might not succeed in persuading the still youthful widow to bury herself once more in seclusion, he also thought proper to address her ; and as he had often preached successfully to the passions, he no less artfully, in his epistle, assailed all Lady William's softer feelings ; assuring her that, should she refuse to accede to Mr. Langhton's wish to return immediately to the Priory, she would very probably shorten his days, as his health had been in a declining state ever since her departure, and henceforward she would be at liberty to receive her own friends there, and to visit whom she pleased ; concluding by hinting, that it would be greatly to her children's interest, and particularly to that she soon

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expected

expected to bring into the world, were it to be born under her father's roof.

This well-worded epistle, with those from Mr. Langhton, were returned by the Marquis's messenger; and his Lordship was half tempted, upon receipt of his, to accuse himself of having wronged Mr. Langhton, whom he now considered as a very fond, if a very mistaken parent. Lady William was also much affected by her father's letter; and the monk's had also its due effect, as she declared her intention of immediately proceeding with her child into Lancashire; and it was not in Lord Endermay's principles to raise any objections to her design, as he thought so young and beautiful a woman would be much more reputably situated in her father's house, than in any other abode she could choose. He, however, deemed it necessary to consult Lord Algernon, though he was well convinced that his Lordship would approve of her plan; nor was he mistaken,

as

as the Earl was extremely happy to learn that she had received so kind an invitation from her father; merely requesting that his sister-in-law would always consider him as one of her sincerest friends, promising to remit her the interest of the money he had placed in the Funds for her use, which would amount, thanks to Lord Endermay's generosity, to between seven and eight hundred a-year: therefore should she, after a time, find herself uncomfortably situated at the Priory, she might remove to a more pleasant abode; since, whether she remained his inmate or not, her father must, when she became of age, put her in possession of her mother's fortune; assuring her that, wherever she resided, he should always consider her in some degree under his protection; and even Father Benedetto should not again confine her against her will.

It having thus been settled *nem. con.* that she should conform to Mr. Langhton's wishes, she wrote to him in consequence,

requesting that her old friend Mrs. Stewart (as she meant to wean her daughter, well aware that her heretic nurse would not be a welcome guest at the Priory), and Gordon, might come up for her, having resolved to discharge all her servants in town ; and she could not think of availing herself of Lord Algernon's kind offer of travelling down with her, as she feared he would not meet with a very cordial welcome from her father ; and as he conceived he should rather be a restraint upon her feelings when she reached home, he did not press the matter.

Lady Winifred Albany had never absolutely forgiven her late nephew, for having put such a slight upon the memory of Lady Zara Montrose ; and his mode of life, after his second marriage, was not likely to conciliate her favour, as she had foreseen that even Mr. Langhton's income would not suffice to cover their expences ; and as she was rather fond of money, she was by no means inclined, as Lord William had hoped,

hoped, to *descend from her altitudes*, for fear he might request her to assist him with her purse. The same motive prevented her from addressing a letter of condolence to the widow, whom she even blamed for having placed herself under the protection of the Marquis of Endermay, as she thought, notwithstanding his Lordship's age, it might give room for scandal ; at all events, it was too convincing a proof of her poverty, to render her at all anxious to interfere in her behalf ; besides, she could not think of having a nursery at Highwood, nor of being plagued with children, at her time of life ; and as Lady William had not sought her friendship while she was in prosperity, she saw no reason for seeking her's, now she was in adversity : she therefore contented herself with hoping, that she would never have reason to repent having, in her opinion, acted very imprudently, since her husband's death.

Mr. Langhton and his confessor were

both extremely pleased with Lady William, for having so readily complied with their wishes, and for having requested that Mrs. Stewart should join her in London, as they highly approved of her intention of discharging all her present servants before she left town. Her former governess was, therefore, ordered to hold herself in readiness to leave the Priory the following morning, Gordon and another male attendant being appointed her guards: and as Mrs. Stewart, though a very great bigot, and consequently very narrow-minded, was sincerely attached to her former pupil, her speedy arrival gave Lady William great satisfaction, who, having taken a very respectful leave of the Marquis of Endermay, and a very affectionate one of Lord Algernon, from both of whom she received some very valuable presents, both for her own and her daughter's use, she departed, with the youthful Rosalie, for Lancashire.

Lord Algernon had made her the bearer
of

of a very polite letter to Mr. Langhton, in which he hinted, that, though his late brother had appointed him the guardian of his daughter, and of the infant that would now probably be born in his house, he did not mean to interfere between the children and their nearer relations, except called upon to do so ; and this, he trusted, would never be the case, since Mr. Langhton was so cordially inclined towards his daughter.

The Marquis of Endermay, who left London on the same day his guest took her departure, had not thought it necessary to answer Mr. Langhton's letter, as he felt no wish to be upon terms of intimacy with a man who never ought to have emerged from a cloister : he had, besides, a sort of inherent dislike to Catholics, particularly of Italian growth, as the loyalty of his clan had always shone conspicuous, during the few weak attempts the Pretender had made to obtain a footing in Scotland : and as he presumed Lady Wi-

Ham's children would now be brought up in what their grandfather deemed the true faith, he was resolved to prevent any intimacy between his grandson and them, and never to consent, during his youth, to his beloved Malcolm's visiting Lancashire, where Lady William arrived in perfect safety, on the fourth evening after she left London.

Rosalie, of whom Mrs. Stewart was grown amazingly fond, had borne her journey wonderfully well, and seemed quite reconciled to her new nurse; still her mother felt her spirits sink, as she drove through the Gothic portal, it so forcibly reminded her of her recent loss. She was, however, most affectionately received by her father; and the monk pronounced a fervent blessing upon her, and returned thanks to Heaven for having permitted her to return within those holy walls. Mrs. Stewart was no less rejoiced, and extremely proud of her young charge, of whom Mr. Langhton soon grew very fond: and as
her

her Ladyship rather enjoyed the secluded life she led, she wrote very chearful letters to the Marquis of Endermay and Lord Algernon, declaring herself to be in a much happier frame of mind, since she had enjoyed the advantage of Father Benedetto's consolatory advice, and the benefit of his fervent prayers.

The Marquis rejoiced she had returned to her paternal home, as he conceived that she would certainly be happier among Catholics, during her approaching confinement. Not wishing, however, to interfere any more in her affairs, or to keep up any correspondence, situated as she now was, he wrote her a polite answer, hinting that he should always rejoice to hear of her future welfare, through the medium of Lord Algernon : and as Lady William perfectly appreciated his motives for thus declining all future intercourse with her, she felt less hurt than she would otherwise have done.

Lord Algernon was no less pleased, upon receipt of her first letter ; and resolved,

if old Langhton and the monk continued to render the Priory an agreeable abode to his sister-in-law, never to interfere between them, much less to dictate respecting his wards.

Within the month after her return into Lancashire, Lady William was delivered of a son, who was immediately baptized by Father Benedetto, by the names of Algernon Langhton Albany. Her Ladyship had been in so low a way previous to his birth, and remained so weak afterwards, that she was unable, as she had proposed, to suckle her infant; but, as this had been foreseen, a wet-nurse had been previously provided—a Catholic, it may be presumed (as Mr. Langhton would strongly have objected to the child's sucking a heretic), who fortunately laid in only a few days before her Ladyship; and to her milk the young Algernon was indebted for a very excellent constitution, and a very docile temper, said Father Benedetto, who early gave him the preference to his sister: not so Mrs.

Stewart—

Stewart—she continued the staunch friend of Rosalie, who was also a great favourite of her mother's, as she soon found that her son ranked foremost in her father's affections.

The Earl of Algernon had been duly apprized, by the monk, of the birth of his nephew, and of his having been named after him, which had been, in some measure, at the instigation of the friar, in consequence of a hint Lady William had expressed previous to her confinement. His Lordship was also informed, that he would be educated in the Catholic faith, since the boy was next heir to Langhton Priory : and as the late Lord William had not expressly stipulated that he should be brought up a Protestant, Lord Algernon acquiesced in the determination.

The Marquis of Derwent, when informed of this encrease of his family, declared his entire approbation of old Langhton's conduct ; protesting that he should not interfere to prevent him, were he to devote

both the brats to the service of God, as he foresaw the name of Albany would not be extinct, were he so inclined ; nor, in fact, would he have cared if it had at his demise, as he did not wish any one to benefit by that event ; and he could not help thinking that heirs were always looking anxiously forward to coming into possession.

A formal letter had also been dispatched to Montrose Castle, by the confessor's advice, and an equally formal one of congratulation, addressed to Mr. Langhton, had been returned by the Marquis, who felt hurt when he understood the young heir was to perpetuate the errors of the Langhton family : but he did not think himself authorised to debate the point, either with his mother or Lord Algernon ; contenting himself with resolving, that there should be no intercourse between the brothers, at least before they were both of age.

Lady Winifred had, of course, learned Lady William's return to the Priory, and
agreed

agreed that she had acted more prudently than she should have expected ; and as she was no longer afraid of being obliged to open her purse-strings, she thought it necessary, since the Marquis of Endermay had set her the example of noticing the young widow, to pay her a lying-in visit ; and, we are sorry to say, was obliged to declare that she was far more actuated by curiosity than by regard, or feeling, towards Lady William and her children.

As she had foreseen, she was received with all due deference by the Langhton family ; but as neither Mr. Langhton nor Father Benedetto wished her to be a frequent guest, they gave her no encouragement to repeat her visits ; and as Lady William had never before been noticed by her, and had thought she had been very deficient in point of attention, when she was really in need of a friend, she was not inclined to give her a very cordial welcome, which induced the stately spinster to resolve never again to enter the gloomy abode ;

abode ; assuring every one to whom she descanted upon her great condescension, that the lying-in-room had given her a fit of the horrors, it was so dark and dismal, and so wretchedly furnished ; affecting to pity the poor young creature, whom her nephew's folly had doomed to pine away her cheerless existence in such a dismal dungeon, and to associate with such a set of superstitious bigots, who certainly, as she prognosticated, soon contrived to estrange the unsuspecting Lady William from her sincere well-wisher, Lord Algernon, by intercepting the letters of both, till they each ceased writing, after vainly expecting answers to their last epistles : and about six months after the birth of his nephew, Lord Algernon, who had been a reformed man from the period of his favourite brother's death, gave his hand to a lady of rank, fashion, and fortune, and who stood so high in the public estimation, that even the Marquis of Derwent reluctantly acknowledged, Algernon had
made

made a very prudent choice ; and the amiable disposition of his wife, added to the wish the Earl now entertained of setting a proper example to his still-dissipated father, induced him to forswear dice and cards, except for amusement, and all his former immoral pursuits : therefore, from the time he married, he became an honour to his rank, and a very valuable member of society ; and in due time, to his infinite satisfaction, the father of a fine boy.

Lord Albertus Albany, whom we hope our readers have not entirely forgotten, as the Marquis of Derwent had once hoped to have seen him Lord High Chancellor, had been almost entirely estranged from his family, from the time he took chambers in the Temple, as he continued to associate with the same low set with whom he had early connected himself ; and when Lord William married the second time, he was as renowned for his pugilistic knowledge, dextrous driving, and low fun, as his two brothers were for their superior elegance

elegance of manners, and strict adherence to the ruling fashions: and as he would have scorned to have been taken for a gentleman, he soon gave up his chambers; preferring a coffee-house or a hotel to any regular abode, not choosing to be restricted respecting hours; besides, at those places he was sure to be surrounded by all the low bucks in London; till having, like the late Lord B——, nearly ruined himself, by supporting any and every low character who could contribute to his amusement, he resolved, soon after he entered his eight-and-twentieth year, like his deceased brother, to make a “bold stroke for a wife.”

Lord William had been dead three years, when he came to this resolution; and he never, during that period, except by chance, met either the Marquis or Lord Algernon, as they had both, though from very different motives, resolved entirely to cut with him; of course, he was convinced that it would be useless for him to seek a
bride.

bride among the fashionable ladies of the age: but being, at this period, very intimate with the son of a rich Jew merchant, who was greatly in his debt, not having been a match for him at cock-fighting, &c. he desired this descendant of Abraham to look out for a rich wife for him among his own tribe; swearing he did not care whether he married a Jew, Gentile, Mahometan, or Christian, so long as he did but finger plenty of the ready.

Manasseh Samuels was by no means inclined to acknowledge that he was of Jewish extraction, though he agreed that some of his family frequented the synagogue; and, wishing to cancel his debts of honour, he told Lord Albertus that he had a relation, an avowed Jewess, who might feel inclined to exchange her plum and a half for a title; offering to introduce him to Hannah Nizam, who, he vowed, would make him a very good, if not a very fashionable wife; though she was a girl of
spirit,

spirit, and even now set the *ton* in St. Mary Axe.

Lord Albertus having convinced himself that Miss Hannah had as large a fortune as Manasseh affirmed, with his assistance, concerted the most probable means of attacking the rich Israelite with any hopes of success. She was not absolutely plain ; and, as her cousin had foreseen, very readily fell into the snare which had been spread for her : and having, in conformity to her dear Lord's wishes, declared herself a convert to his religious principles, she forsook the synagogue, and was, in due form, baptized and married at the same time.

Had not Lord Albertus been insensible of shame, he might have blushed for the origin of the mother of his future children ; as old Ephraim Nizam, the father of his fair bride, had risen from the lowest order of society ; having been first merely porter to a Jew merchant, then an itine-
rant

rant old cloathsman, and dealer in hare-skins; he was next a warehouseman in Houndsditch, when, having married the widow of a rich broker, he soon became one of the most substantial followers of the law of Moses; yet he never could be prevailed upon to have Hannah, his only child, educated in a manner suitable to the fortune she must one day inherit, his wife not having long survived her second marriage; of course, Miss Nizam was not calculated to do great honour to an exalted station when he died, leaving her sole heiress of his immense wealth. But Lord Albertus had resolved she should never appear at Court, and he was convinced that she would not be shocked by the gross vulgarity of the set with whom he associated; and she fancied it must greatly add to her happiness, being styled, "My Lady"—a distinction she had long coveted, and which, we may safely affirm, was the sole advantage she derived from her precipitate union with an Albany, as
she

she was not, it may be supposed, noticed by any one branch of that family.

At the expiration of a twelvemonth, she presented him with a daughter, who was named Hannah, after herself; and, as a mother, she appeared to some degree of advantage: and as she never ventured to contradict her, in many respects, brutal husband (since continual drinking, and the counsels and example of his low companions, had been as hurtful to his temper as inimical to his morals), she was not compleatly miserable, as she had her hours of relaxation when her lord and master was from home; and, when his daughter was about a year old, his sapient Lordship left London early one morning, to be present at a pitched battle between two noted pugilists, which was to be fought about thirty miles from town. During the savage contest, high words arose among the friends of the respective champions, respecting a blow which the man his Lordship had backed to a considerable amount received,

received, as he, and all those who had betted on that side, declared it was not fair, which was, of course, as obstinately pronounced to be so by the other party. The man was, however, beaten, and the majority of those present declared, very fairly, which so provoked the already half drunk, and always when opposed savage Lord Albertus, that, in the heat of his passion, he struck a low fellow, who instantly challenged him to fight it out ; declaring himself, in true slang language, to be a better man than he was, or ever would be. His Lordship had, therefore, no alternative, but to make excuses for the provocation he had given, or, as his challenger had proposed, to have recourse to his fists ; and as he fancied that he was perfect master of the science of boxing, he fought it out upon the spot ; and, to his *honour* be it recorded, after a most desperate battle, he beat his man ; but unfortunately he received so many severe inward bruises, and his blood was in so bad a state, that he departed

parted this life on the sixteenth day after he had achieved his dear-bought triumph, very much lamented by all his low companions, who certainly lost, in him, a very staunch friend.

CHAP. VII.

WHEN the early death of Lord Albertus Albany was canvassed among the higher circles, they unanimously declared he had only met with his deserts; nay, even the Earl of Algernon did not deem it incumbent upon him to condole with his widow, or to enquire in what circumstances she was left, understanding that his brother was reputed to have died rich; and he was confirmed.

confirmed in this opinion, by learning that, when conscious of his approaching dissolution, he had made a will, in which, strange to relate, he had appointed Lady Winifred Albany the guardian of his infant daughter's person, and the Marquis of Derwent the guardian of her fortune, amounting to one hundred thousand pounds. The other fifty thousand, which he had received with Hannah Nizam, he had been half tricked into settling upon herself. Over that he had, of course, no power; and, out of revenge, though upon his death-bed, he resolved to exclude her from benefiting by her daughter's minority, or from holding any authority over her.

The Marquis, who grew fonder of money as he advanced in years, though still as dissipated as ever, gave his deceased son infinite credit for the prudence he had displayed in the making of his will, and strongly enforced the wish he expressed; that Lady Winifred would immediately take charge of the infant heiress, who

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could not be too soon removed from the care of her low-born mother ; offering to make her any allowance she might deem adequate to the trouble and expence such an inmate would occasion her.

Her Ladyship, who felt flattered at being considered of consequence, and of being appointed guardian to the infant female, readily acceded to her brother's politely-worded request, feeling not a little stimulated by the thousand a-year it was settled she should receive for the child's board, &c.

Miss Albany was, therefore, demanded in form ; and her mother was reluctantly obliged to deliver her into the hands of her grandfather, who immediately sent her down to Highwood.

Lady Winifred was shocked, upon her arrival, to perceive that her complexion, and various other indications, proclaimed her to be a descendant from one of the ten tribes ; but hoped, in time, to see her engrafted into some noble family, who might overlook her being the grandchild
of

of Ephraim Nizam, in consideration of her fortune, which, she feared, would be her chief attraction—Meanwhile Malcolm Montrose, the hero of our tale, grew a very fine boy, and was idolized by his grandfather, and all the household at the Castle.

The Earl of Algernon had intended to have visited Scotland the summer he married; but as he, in consequence of that event, spent three months with his bride's father, he gave up the idea; and, soon after the birth of his second son, within a month after Lord Albertus's death, he was nominated ambassador to the Court of Spain, Lady Algernon's father being in the Ministry, which, for a time, totally estranged him from his family. Lady William Albany having ceased to correspond with him, even before he married, he, of course, felt much less interested in her fate; and as all her money-concerns were now settled by her father's steward, he conceived himself to be exonerated from the guardianship of her children; therefore did not

think it necessary to inform her, that he was going to leave England, probably for some years; merely requesting his aunt, Lady Winifred, with whom he was in high favour, and of whom he took a very polite leave in writing, would let him know, should any material occurrence take place at the Priory during his absence; since, though he knew she was as much a stranger as himself to what was passing within its walls, should either Mr. Langhton or his daughter die, or either of the children, he presumed it would not be kept a secret; and he should wish to have the earliest intelligence, should any thing of moment transpire.

Her Ladyship answered his letter very speedily, promising to write him to Madrid, whenever she learned any thing worthy his notice; requesting to be remembered to the Countess and the dear children, who, she understood, were to accompany him to Spain.

The Earl also wrote to Lord Endermay,
and

and sent several very elegant and expensive presents to his elder nephew, now in his seventh year; expressing a hope that Lord Endermay would have no objection to his children's cultivating an acquaintance with their cousin, when he returned from Spain.

The Marquis sent him a very polite answer, expressive of his sincere good wishes towards every individual of his family; and, through the medium of a friend in London, he, in his grandson's name, made some very suitable presents to Lord Dunluce and his infant brother, who, during the following week, embarked for Lisbon with their parents, as they proposed proceeding from thence to Madrid.

During the first twelvemonth after his absence, Lady Winifred found full occupation in superintending the nursery of her ward, whose mother, being deprived of that pleasure, and having little to attach her to her Lord's memory, made a second choice, long before etiquette sanctioned

such a proceeding; and great was Lady Winifred's dismay, upon reading, in the morning papers, that Lady Albertus Albany had bestowed her reserved fifty thousand pounds, and her fair self, upon a rich Jew merchant, of the name of Salvadore, who resided in Bury-street, St. Mary Axe, and whose villa was at Hackney. "What better could be expected from such a woman?" her Ladyship wisely observed.—Though she rejoiced to hear that this apostate to the true faith, and to all decency, had had the grace to drop her title, yet she greatly feared that her avowed return to the law of Moses, would prove an effectual bar to the Honourable Miss Albany's making a decent match, notwithstanding she never suffered her ward to be called by her vulgar mother's name of Hannah, which she had softened down to Anna: and it may be supposed that the second marriage of Mrs. Salvadore was also seriously canvassed at the Priory, Father Benedetto rejoicing that his dear daughter,

as

as he styled Lady William, had dropped all connexion with such a worldly-minded set as the Albany family evidently were; kindly hinting, that he was convinced a judgment had gone forth against them—in-
stancing the untimely deaths of Lord William and Lord Albertus; the one, having seduced a Catholic from her duty, had, of course, incurred the resentment of Omnipotence; and the other having, contrary to every ordinance, human or divine, intermarried with an avowed unbeliever in Christ, had, of course, dared the vengeance which had so speedily overtaken him. The Earl of Algernon was, he agreed, the flower of the family, and had acted very honourably, in not attempting to interfere in the education of the young Algernon and Rosalie, who ought never to be suffered to associate with Protestants of any degree; of course, not with their brother and cousins; since, admitting that the former did turn out well, he would doubtless be a staunch Protestant; and, if he bore any
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resemblance to his late father in point of disposition, he would indubitably hurt the morals of Algernon, were any intercourse suffered between them.

Lady William reluctantly assented to what she by no means approved of; but, to oppose the confessor with any hopes of success, she knew, would prove a vain attempt; she, therefore, suffered her children to be brought up in almost monastic seclusion, though she was well aware that this was not likely to enable them to appear with *eclat*, whenever they were released from their present state of bondage.

Very different was the education bestowed upon their brother, as Lord Endermay had early resolved to spare neither pains nor expence upon the heir to his family-honours and vast estate, as he was extremely anxious to prevent him from disgracing the high rank which he was born to fill in society, which he thought his paternal grandfather had long done: he also wished him to avoid falling into his late father's

father's errors; and this, he conceived, could only be done by paying the greatest attention to his principles, morals, and early habits. He, therefore, engaged a very worthy clergyman to superintend his juvenile studies, and to form his mind to an early love of virtue; since, without hoping or expecting that he would prove either a phœnix or a faultless monster, he wished him to be a good as well as a fashionable member of society. He, therefore, made a point of spending his winters in Edinburgh, after his grandson had attained his tenth year, that he might enjoy the benefit of the best masters that capital afforded; and was undecided, as he grew up, whether he should send him to one of the Scotch, or suffer him to be entered at one of the English Universities. The decided preference Malcolm gave to the profession of arms, rendered it needless to come to any decision upon that point, as a soldier was not required to have his education finished at the University; and as

all the sons of the house of Endermay had been renowned for their loyalty and bravery, he did not oppose his wish to be incorporated into a Highland regiment; merely observing to him, that, though he had, for some time, been studying tactics and fortifications, he had yet much military knowledge to acquire, notwithstanding the present French army was often led on by *ci-devant* monks and barbers, some of whom might, he agreed, have been endowed with great natural talents, which, added to enthusiasm, and a contempt of death, had rendered them great generals; and being in constant employ was infinitely more likely to render a man a good soldier, than all the theoretical knowledge which can be obtained from books or study.

Malcolm had scarcely received the colours with which he was entrusted, ere he panted to be called into action, that he might have an opportunity of convincing his grandfather, that he should not tarnish the
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the same of his family : but, as he was not more than sixteen when he entered the army, and of a most lively, though a most excellent disposition, the Marquis did not choose he should spend much time with his regiment, as he had still many things to learn, besides military manœuvres ; and Dr. Campbell, his worthy tutor, seconded his Lordship so ably, that, though volatile to a degree, he never neglected his studies, as he resolved not to remain in ignorance of any thing his grandfather thought it necessary he should be acquainted with. The Marquis generally accompanied him, when he did suffer him to join the regiment ; and as he was still a very gay companion, and strove to render himself very agreeable to all the officers, they were always extremely happy to see him and the young Ensign, who was a general favourite with the whole corps.

Lord Endermay had, at a proper period, entered into every necessary detail respecting his father's family, with which he

had had no direct communication since Lord Algernon had been abroad; having long since dropped all correspondence with Lady William Albany, and never having renewed that which Lady Winifred had begun during his daughter's lifetime. Through the medium of the newspapers, he often gained intelligence of the Marquis of Derwent, who was now styled the evergreen of the fashionable world; and, if report was to be credited, which certainly merely did him justice, he was still as dissipated and dissolute as he had been at one-and-twenty. Lord Endermay was, therefore, very happy that his grandson had never been noticed by this *juvenile* old man, to whose baneful example, like Lady Winifred, he, in a great measure, attributed the errors of his youngest sons.

His grandson had just entered his eighteenth year, when his uncle, Lord Algernon, returned to England from his Spanish embassy. He had had a third son born in Spain; but his eldest, Lord Dunluce, was
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the only survivor when he returned to England, and he was four years Malcolm's junior, and had spent the last three at Eton, having preceded his father home, who had been led to suppose, by the loss of his other sons, that the air of Spain was not congenial to children. His maternal uncle had undertaken the care of him, and with him he had always spent his holidays; but sincerely did he rejoice when the Earl and Countess returned to England, as he knew, from his mother, he should meet with many more indulgences than had of late fallen to his share, as he had, previous to his leaving Spain, felt the baneful effects of being an only child. The Marquis of Derwent had, once or twice, invited him to his town-house, and had boasted much of his hospitality, in having had him for a fortnight, during one summer vacation, at his seat in Staffordshire; but, as he presumed his father provided for all his wants, he did not think it incumbent upon him to make him any pecuniary or
other

other presents, not feeling at all cordially inclined towards the future Marquis of Derwent, who, it may be supposed, was still more flighty and undecided at twelve and thirteen, than he was at twenty: and when his father arrived in England, he soon learned that Lord Dunluce was one of the most lively, the most dissipated, and most mischievous boys at Eton, though perfectly good-tempered; and even his pranks bore no traits of malice; indeed, they were indiscriminately played off upon friends or foes: and as the Earl had borne a very similar character at the same seminary, he was the more ready to forgive his son's love of frolic; though he seriously cautioned him against suffering it to degenerate into low fun, or mischievous sport.

Not having corresponded with Lord Endermay during his residence abroad, he was undecided whether he should pay him a visit, uninvited, at Montrose Castle; till he reflected that, ere long, his nephew would probably be presented at Court, and the Marquis

quis might not wish to introduce him to his father's family before; and at present he might, with justice, think that Dunluce was too young, and him (Lord Algernon) too old, to be fit companions for the young soldier, of whom he heard a most excellent character from the Colonel of his regiment, whom he met at a dinner one of the Ministers gave soon after his return from Spain, and with whom he entered into conversation respecting his nephew, who stood very high in the Colonel's esteem; and from him he learned, that though he greatly resembled his father in point of figure, his features and complexion were those of his mother, who, like all her countrywomen, was extremely fair. "He has also inherited her golden locks," continued the Colonel; "therefore, were you to see him in his regimentals, you would swear he was a Scotchman; and 'faith he is not only the finest young fellow of his age I have ever seen, but he is also one of the most accomplished; though,

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though, don't mistake me, he is not without his faults; but they only serve to render his virtues the more conspicuous: indeed, he is generally beloved by both great and poor, and the doting-piece of his fond grandfather; still, he has never spoiled him, nor would he encourage him in extravagance, though he makes him a most liberal allowance, and wishes him to be generous, but not lavish, of fortune's favours."

"I only wish I had not sent my son to Eton," resumed Lord Algernon; "but, as I was aware of my own deficiencies, and afraid to trust entirely to a private tutor, I thought I was acting very wisely in so doing: but I am now fearful he will not turn out so well as his cousin, who has certainly had many advantages which Henry could not have had, even had I kept him under my own eye, as I cannot compare myself to the Marquis of Endermay, who, I have been assured, is one of the first scholars this island can boast."

"You

“ You have not been misinformed, my Lord ; and he has had a most able assistant in Dr. Campbell : but I believe, nay, I have heard him say, that he is more anxious to have his grandson spoken of as a good man, than to hear him mentioned as a prodigy of learning ; and, hitherto, the youth has been every thing that he could wish ; but, as he justly says, he is yet like an unfledged bird, and has never been from under his eye : but I do hope that he will never fall into any very gross errors, when he does make his entrance into the world, as he is by no means fond of the bottle, nor is he to be either rallied or persuaded into drinking more than he likes ; and he excuses himself with so much good-humoured pleasantry, and is so gay a companion, that he is now suffered to do as he likes, as he frequently declares that, though born in the Highlands, he does not require much of the juice of the grape to raise his spirits above par. But I should tire you, were I to dwell much longer upon
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on this subject, or I should induce you to accuse me of partiality, as, in my opinion, your nephew will do the utmost honour to the noble race from whence he sprung."

The Earl was extremely happy to hear him say so; observing that, had his brother been equally well educated, he was convinced he would have been a very different character, and might now have been living, an example to his sons, and blessed with a great share of conjugal felicity; and these reflections did not tend to render him more indulgent to his father's follies, with whom he had not corresponded more than once a-year during his residence abroad; but, upon his return home, as he had chosen to notice his son, he thought it incumbent upon him to pay an early visit at Derwent House.

The Marquis affected to be very happy to see him, and in due time returned the compliment, and even invited his son to a ceremonious dinner, before he left town for the summer, as he found he was in
great

great favour with the Ministers; and chance brought them again together at Brighton, during the autumn, Lady Algeron having been ordered sea-bathing; and as it had also been recommended to Lord Dunluce, who grew very fast, he accompanied them thither. The Marquis had taken a sort of liking to the youth, in consequence of his being reckoned extremely like him; and, though the most volatile among his schoolfellows, he was certainly not deficient in point of parts; but he was so averse to application, and so eager in his pursuit of novelty, that his father with justice feared he would never be deemed a good scholar; since, though anxious to learn every thing, he was soon discouraged when he came to encounter the necessary difficulties which impeded his rapid progress.

As the Marquis's amours, and other follies, still continued to afford paragraphs for the morning papers, he had frequently been highly amused at his grandfather's
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expencc, though it may be supposed that his respect for the old gentleman was by no means encreased; and he had soon learned that he had never been upon very cordial terms with his father, and that the follies of his deceased uncles were, in a great measure, attributed to the dissolute example he had always set them. Therefore, without appearing to intend it, he frequently gave the Marquis to understand, that he was more *au fait* than he wished, respecting his mode of life; and as his Lordship could not entirely divest himself of the *manieres de la vielle cour*, though he scrupulously adhered to the reigning fashion, and concealed his grey hairs under a fashionable Brutus, Lord Dunluce often amused himself with mimicing the old beau, as he styled him, to some of his young companions. Unfortunately his Lordship caught him in the very act one day upon the Steine, which so provoked him, that he made a most serious complaint to his son, declaring that
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he should have supposed the boy had received his early education in France instead of Spain, as he seemed to have formed his manners upon those of the rising generation in that miserable country, from whence the present ruling demagogues had effectually banished good manners, and all respect for persons.

The Earl, not having been present when his son had thus offended against the laws of good breeding, could only hope that Henry was not so culpable as he seemed to make him out, as he must be aware that he should be as much offended at his holding up those he ought to respect to ridicule, as he (the Marquis) could feel himself.

These vague concessions were by no means sufficient to satisfy the old Peer, who now chose to blame the Earl for having sent his son to Eton, where he was likely to be encouraged, by his lawless companions, in all his evil propensities.

This Lord Algernon was by no means
inclined

inclined to allow, therefore warmly defended that celebrated college, within whose walls some of the first characters in Great Britain had received their education; adding, "I should not have supposed your Lordship would have objected to a seminary, at which you placed all your own sons."

"I should have supposed you, my Lord, would have taken warning from my imprudence. You did reform the bad habits you acquired there, after time and experience had taught you what must have been the consequence, had you persevered in your mad career; but I am ready to prognosticate, that your son will tread in the steps of his uncles, since he is already as impertinently satirical as William was at his age, and as fond of low fun as Albertus always appeared. Lord Endermay has pursued a very different method with his grandson, I have been assured; and by him, I make no doubt, I shall always be treated with the respect so much my due from a grandchild;

grandchild; nay, even the young Catholic would never have dared to have insulted me so grossly as Lord Dunluce has, doubtless, frequently done."

"I am rejoiced to find your Lordship so ready to do justice to my nephews, even at the expence of my son."

"I hope I shall always be just, Lord Algernon; and my regard for truth forces me to declare, that your son will never do equal honour to his family."

The Earl had wished to have conciliated matters, being seriously displeased with his son; but these spiteful prognostics respecting his only child, added to the ill-timed praise the Marquis had chosen to bestow upon his cousins, whom he had never seen, and of whose dispositions he could, of course, be no judge, quite provoked him; he therefore replied, that he was astonished the Marquis should feel himself so grievously offended at his son's conduct, since he ought to reflect that his conduct through life had not been calculated to render him
respectable

respectable in the eyes of his grandchildren, who could not be kept in ignorance of his follies, not to give his actions a harsher name.

These home truths had the desired effect of silencing the Marquis, who, instantly snatching up his hat, left the house, resolving never again to hold converse with this most undutiful of all children; since he evidently encouraged his son to laugh in his face, and to hold him up to ridicule.

CHAP. VIII.

IN consequence of the *heroic* resolution Lord Derwent had so instantaneously formed, upon being, for once in his life, addressed in the language of truth, he set out, the following morning, for Weymouth, not wishing either to see or hear of his *insolent* son for some months to come.

The Earl, when he heard of his departure, presumed he had now sinned beyond forgiveness. This did not prevent him from giving his son a very severe lecture ; judiciously observing, that even those who were amused by his impertinent behaviour to his grandfather, must despise him in

their hearts. Be that as it might, he expected, as a mark of respect to himself, that he would, in future, treat the Marquis with the deference and respect due to his age and rank.

Lord Dunluce readily acknowledged his error, and offered to address his grandfather in writing, in extenuation of his late conduct.

The Earl did not approve of the idea, well aware that any concessions merely added fuel to the flame, with his irascible, selfish parent, who having had time for reflection during his journey, wished he had not been so precipitate in his movements, ere he reached Weymouth, as his son was in such favour with the higher powers, that he thought it would be very impolitic to come to an open rupture with him, because his son was an impertinent puppy; since he could not accuse him of having set the boy the example, as he always treated him with politeness, and an appearance of respect. It was certainly taking
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ing a very improper liberty, to venture to criticise his mode of life; but as he was obliged to acknowledge that he had, in a manner, provoked him to do so, he wished himself back at Brighton, even before he reached Weymouth; and soon recollected something he wished to impart to his son, which enabled him so to make up matters, that they continued upon their usual terms, since no real cordiality had ever marked their mutual intercourse.

They met again in London, and, by chance, in Pall-Mall, each walking with a friend, which induced the Marquis to address his son with much apparent satisfaction; he even enquired after Lady Algeron, but did not mention Lord Dunluce. The Earl was, therefore, convinced that his son was not included in the sort of amnesty which had been agreed upon between them; nor was he mistaken, as the Marquis assured all his friends, that the boy would turn out a mere dissipated man of fashion; and certainly, when entered a

fellow-commoner at Cambridge, he bid very fair to verify his kind prognostics, as he seemed to fancy he was sent thither in pursuit of pleasure, instead of knowledge.

The hero of our tale had continued to reside in Scotland, and chiefly with his grandfather, till he became of age; soon after which he was advanced to the rank of Captain; and the Marquis had it in contemplation to spend the ensuing winter in London, as he thought it proper that his heir, who was now in his twenty-second year, should be introduced to his Sovereign, and to his father's family; and sincerely did he hope that he would not disgrace the excellent education he had received, when removed, as he must now be, from under the eye of his two Mentors; when, to his infinite dismay, though he had for some time secretly dreaded such an event taking place, his grandson's regiment was ordered abroad; and he durst not even express a hope that he would remain behind, as he was as jealous of his honour,

honour, and as anxious for his promotion, as the young soldier himself could feel. Though he as sincerely regretted the necessary separation from his grandfather as the old gentleman himself did, both were, however, resolved to enact the hero upon this trying occasion; though the Marquis found it much the most difficult, since he might never again see the living image of his deceased daughter, whom, he had hoped, would have been the solace of his old age. In vain did Malcolm assure him that, for his sake, he would take care of himself; and that probably he should soon return, and, he hoped, covered with laurels, since every British officer must feel anxious to do even more than his duty, during the present contest with France.

The Marquis agreed to the justice of his remark, merely hinting, that rashness was no proof of courage; though he acknowledged that he would rather follow him to the grave, than hear his conduct as an officer impeached; observing that he must be

introduced to their Majesties before he left England ; and he should take the same opportunity of introducing him to his father's family. Therefore when his regiment, which was then in Scotland, was ordered to set out on their march to Plymouth, he left the Castle, with his grandfather, for London ; and, had it not been for the parting from Lord Endermay, he would have felt compleatly happy at having his name enrolled among the defenders of his country.

It may be presumed, that both the Marquis and himself met with a very gracious reception at St. James's ; our hero in particular, who looked to very great advantage in regimentals, attracted very general notice, and received some very flattering compliments from many branches of the royal family ; and within the week, in consequence of various resignations on account of ill health, &c. he was promoted to the rank of Major, by purchase ; and was to kiss hands upon the occasion, and
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take leave the following week, previous to his leaving London for Plymouth ; but, in consequence of the resolutions entered into at Montrose Castle, the Marquis accompanied him to Derwent House, the morning after he had made his first appearance at Court. Lord Derwent was not at home ; therefore, after leaving cards, they proceeded to the Earl of Algernon's, who still resided in Portland-place, where they learned that his Lordship, having gone down to his seat in Cheshire for the Easter-holidays, had been confined there ever since by the gout ; and as the summer was so far advanced, it was doubtful whether he would return to London before Christmas.

The Marquis felt disappointed, as he had long wished to introduce his grandson to his only surviving uncle ; but as Malcolm had never seen him, he thought it of little consequence whether they met now or after his return to England, as he felt no doubt of doing so some time or other :

indeed, he was much more curious to see his brother and sister, than any other branch of his family; but, as they never emerged from the precincts of the old Priory, and he had never been invited to visit the *sancta casa*, he thought it very probable they might never meet, at least during the lives of their respective grandfathers.

The Marquis of Derwent soon returned the visit he had received, by dropping a card in Arlington-street; but did not seem inclined to form any acquaintance with the young soldier, possibly that he might not share in Lord Endermay's grief when he left England. Be that as it may, Malcolm had so many places to visit in London, and so many Scotch, and other friends of his maternal grandfather, were so anxious to see him, and to make his time pass agreeably, that he was by no means sensible of Lord Derwent's evident neglect of the common forms of good breeding, in not inviting him to pass one evening, during

during his limited stay in town, in St. James's-square. The fact was, he had such a rooted dislike to the Marquis of Endermay, that it had descended to this their joint grandson; who being at the opera, on the first Saturday after his arrival in town, with a party of officers, who were, like himself, upon the wing for Plymouth, he, for the first time in his life, saw the gallant gay Lothario, as the Marquis of Derwent still wished to appear, in one of the private boxes, with a party of equal rank. One of his companions pointed him out to him, asking him if he did not wear well? though he believed, that, like Lord Ogleby, he would require some making up, ere he appeared in public.

Malcolm agreed he was still a very fine figure; and as he looked much younger than Lord Endermay, who was not many years his senior, he presumed he was more *au fait* at repairing the ravages of time: of course, he mentioned having seen the still-blooming evergreen to his much less
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youthful grandfather, who was fearful, he said, that Lord Derwent would never lay aside his taste for pleasure.

On the Sunday, all the officers belonging to our hero's regiment, who were in town, among whom was his worthy Colonel, dined in Arlington-street, by special invitation; and the Marquis took an opportunity of privately recommending him, in the strongest terms, to that gentleman, that, in the event of his being wounded, all possible care might be taken of him; acknowledging that he feared he should never see him again, as he felt himself declining daily.

Colonel ——— gave him every assurance likely to raise his spirits, and to enable him to bear up against the approaching separation; declaring, that there was not a man in the regiment who would not willingly sacrifice his own life to save that of Major Montrose, who was most sincerely and deservedly beloved by the whole regiment.

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The Marquis promised to exert all his fortitude upon the trying occasion ; and, not wishing to afford himself time for reflection, he was the constant companion of his grandson, whether at home or abroad, during the ensuing three days.

On the Thursday, they were invited to dine with a Scotch Peer, the elder brother of Colonel ———. The Marquis had accompanied his grandson to Court again on the Wednesday, to pay his parting *devoirs*; but was so unwell on the Thursday, owing to the ricketing life he had led, of late, to banish reflection, and to his encreasing anxiety of mind, that he declared his inability of proceeding into Portland-place, when they left the drawing-room, where it had also been necessary our hero should shew himself; who, in consequence, rather reluctantly, after setting him down in Arlington-street, proceeded to join the party with whom he had engaged to dine. But the Marquis had made a point of his doing so, assuring him, that he was merely under

the unpleasant influence of a violent headache, for which quiet and repose were the only remedies ; and as he meant to retire immediately, he insisted upon his not returning home a moment sooner upon his account, as he should not see him till they met at breakfast the next morning ; and as this was a sort of farewell-dinner which the Peer gave his brother, and many of his brother-officers were present, the bottles were pushed about so briskly, that our young Major found it impossible not to break through his general rule of rising perfectly sober from table ; not that he was at all disordered, but certainly in unusual good spirits, when he drove from the door, between ten and eleven. His coachman had also been making rather free with some of his brother whips, who had, like himself, been in waiting ; therefore dashed off full speed, meaning to set his master down in Arlington-street, very speedily, we must suppose. Unfortunately, the night was rather dark, and his head

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was not very clear ; he, therefore, took a wrong turning, and, in whisking round the corner of Edward-street, to turn into Cavendish-square, our hero felt so severe a jolt, that he was surprised the carriage had not been overturned by the shock it had sustained ; presuming, in the first instance, that his coachman had run upon the post at the corner, till he recollected the jolt seemed to have proceeded from some obstruction on the other side ; and, upon looking out to discover with what he had come in such close contact, he heard screams.

His man, having merely been checked in his mad career, conscious of the mischief he had done, was driving forward with encreasing speed, till his more humane master called out, in a peremptory tone, ordering him to turn round, and drive to the spot from whence he continued to hear the screams of females. Very reluctantly, the man obeyed : it was near eleven, and there was hardly a person in
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the streets; but, having returned to the corner of Edward-street, he perceived, by the light of a lamp, a handsome chariot lying upon its side, and the coachman assisting two ladies out through the upper door. Springing out of his own carriage, Malcolm flew to their assistance, enquiring how the accident had happened?

“Through the rashness of your coachman, Sir,” was the reply—“he tore off one of my hind wheels.”

Little more passed between them, till they had succeeded in extricating two very handsome young women from their unpleasant situation, whom, it soon appeared, had fortunately been more alarmed than hurt.

Malcolm requested they would allow him to see them home, feeling anxious to make every reparation in his power for his coachman's carelessness. This considerate offer was readily accepted; and having handed the ladies into his carriage, he ordered it to No. —, Portman-street,
Portman-

Portman-square, where, they told him, they resided ; and, during their drive, he had no reason to complain of their shyness or taciturnity ; and they pressed him so politely to alight, when they reached their abode, which appeared to be a handsome private house, that he made no scruple of obliging them ; rather presuming that they ranked among the first class of Cyprian beauties, as they had gaily expressed a great wish to see a little more of him ; and he felt conscious that a nearer survey must turn out to his advantage. Therefore, having handed them out, he ordered his carriage and servants home, as he meant to walk, he told them, that he might not again endanger his neck.

His coachman endeavoured to excuse himself, urging that he was perfectly sober.

“ Then you were the more to blame,” was the reply ; “ but, as I am of a different opinion, you will drive home empty.”

The man, who was shocked at having
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incurred his displeasure, said no more, hoping that he would be more inclined to overlook his fault in the morning. The footmen, however, knowing that their master was a perfect stranger in town, advised his waiting at a little distance till the Major came out again, as they did not relish the idea of returning home without him.

During their debate, the young soldier followed the fair nymphs he had so courteously rescued from their dangerous situation, into a very elegant drawing-room, where they renewed their thanks for the timely assistance he had afforded them: still they were so familiar, and paid him so many free compliments, that he was more and more confirmed in his conjectures respecting their *calling*, as, having made him take a seat, they insisted upon his pledging them in a glass of wine, as they found it absolutely necessary to take something to raise their spirits, after their recent alarm.

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Now he felt, and was convinced, that they must perceive he was in no want of a cordial; still he was too gallant to object to their proposal. A sandwich-tray, and a bottle of Madeira, were therefore ordered, and immediately brought in; and he was easily induced to partake of their *petit souper*. The lady who seemed to play the hostess, was a fine shewy young woman, of six-and-twenty: her friend was by no means so good a figure, but had a more regular set of features, and appeared rather older.

Having finished their repast, and convinced him that they were infinitely more partial to wine than he was, the tray was removed; and as there was a very handsome piano in the room, Malcolm requested to be favoured with a specimen of their skill. The youngest instantly sat down to the instrument, and soon convinced him that she played and sang in a very superior style: her companion, not being equally harmoniously inclined, withdrew, and the fair

fair syren was singing a second popular ballad, with infinite taste and pathos, when she suddenly paused, exclaiming, "Was not that a knock at the door?"

"I cannot satisfy you," was the reply; "though, I give you my honour, I was all ear."

She smiled, and resumed her song; but had scarcely done so, ere her companion, in evident alarm, rushed into the room, saying, in an audible whisper, "The Marquis is at my heels;" whisking the lights off the piano while she spoke, and placing them upon the table, upon which remained a decanter of Madeira and three glasses; while the singer, hastily rising, exclaimed, in a peevish tone, "And what then? This gentleman merely saw us home after our accident; surely no one can misconstrue so simple an action;" remaining standing near the instrument, running her fingers over the keys to conceal her perturbation, and giving her visitor a look, which he construed into, "only confirm what I may advance,"

advance," as he was not so much overtaken not to understand her meaning, and also to feel himself very awkwardly situated. Not wishing, however, to injure the fair songstress in the estimation of her patron, he caught up his cap or helmet, and retreated towards the chimney, wishing to seem as if he was upon the point of departure, when, to his infinite astonishment, the Marquis of Derwent, unannounced, therefore evidently a frequent and familiar guest, stalked into the room, exclaiming, "I do not suppose you expected me to-night, Serena; but I got away from my party much sooner than I expected, so I resolved to occasion you an agreeable surprise—I heard you warbling before I knocked."

At that moment, as the fair Serena had hitherto screened him from his view, he caught sight of the handsome young Highlander, who had perhaps seldom appeared to more advantage: his costume was peculiarly appropriate to his fine manly figure,

figure, and particularly advantageous to his complexion, which was the counterpart of his mother's; and his golden, or bright auburn hair, which waved in the most becoming manner over his fine arched forehead, gave great animation to his dark-blue eyes. In point of features, he resembled his father; he had also the same intrepid look, blended with all Lady Zara's sweetness. He had, of course, instantly recognised his paternal grandfather in the unwelcome intruder; and, had the Marquis been equally acquainted with his person, probably he would have acted very differently. As it was, he actually started back, a prey to all the direst pangs of jealousy; appearing undecided whether he should not instantly leave the house, never to return: but Serena having seized hold of him, said, with a forced laugh, "Do not be alarmed, my dear Marquis; though I do not wonder at your being surprised at finding me in company with a stranger: but I am convinced that you will add your
thanks

thanks to ours, when you learn how kindly attentive he has shewn himself to Charlotte and me ; since, but for his humane interference, it is very possible that you might have found us both under the hands of a surgeon, had we been so fortunate as to have escaped with life."

" Considering you have been in such imminent danger, I wonder you have so soon recovered your spirits," coldly replied the angry Marquis, " since you were exerting your vocal powers for your preserver's amusement, I presume, when I knocked at your door. But pray, let me hear what dreadful misfortune had like to have befallen you, and who this stranger is to whom you are indebted for your existence ?"

" Your last question I cannot resolve, my Lord ; therefore I must refer you to him : but, light as you seem to make of my past danger, I shall ever consider myself as greatly his debtor."

" Then pray inform me what has occurred,

curred, and why I found you in such company, at so unseasonable an hour ; and let me advise you to come to the point at once, and not to trifle with me any longer."

" Trifle with you, my Lord ! I scorn your words. For my own sake, not for yours, I shall condescend to be as explicit as you wish ;" relating very much in detail what it would be useless to repeat, merely attributing rather more merit than was his due to the young soldier ; declaring that the coachman had had enough to do to prevent the horses from moving ; therefore, but for the timely assistance of the stranger, there was no knowing what might have proved the consequence of such an accident.

The friend confirmed all she said, adding, that as the gentleman's coachman was evidently very much in liquor, he had thought it most prudent to send him home ; which had induced them to ask him in till a hackney-coach could be procured ; forgetting to mention, as well as her friend,
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that they had also asked him to supper, and that they had taken that meal together.

The Marquis listened, with visible incredulity, to their prolix detail, having, more than once, caught them furtively glancing at the young Scot, seeming to request he would affirm what they advanced. To judge from appearances, he was a man of some rank, and certainly a most dangerous rival ; there was, besides, an ironical smile so frequently visible playing round his mouth, that Lord Derwent felt half inclined to call him to a very severe account ; little supposing that his dreaded rival with difficulty avoided laughing out, upon finding himself so ludicrously situated ; though he had resolved not to contradict Serena's tale, which was certainly true in the aggregate, though rather embellished by fiction. " And have you sent your servant for a hackney-coach ?" asked the provoked Marquis, in answer to Miss Charlotte's last assertion.

" I had

“I had just left the room to give the order, my Lord, when you knocked,” was the reply.

“And you were singing to the gentleman, to beguile time, I presume, Miss Alton,” resumed the Peer, in a stern accent.

“The piano-forte was standing open, my Lord, which led to this gentleman’s requesting that I would favour him with— ‘She died for love, and he for glory;’ and I was raising my voice, and running over the symphony.”

“When I unfortunately interrupted you,” rejoined the Peer. Now pray, Sir,” he went on, advancing towards his amused grandson, “have I been listening to a true or to a fictitious tale? As a soldier, and a man of honour, I request you will be sincere. I do not know whom I am addressing, and these ladies affect to be equally ignorant; therefore will you satisfy my very natural curiosity?”

“I can have no objection, my Lord;
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but first give me leave to assure you, upon the word of a soldier, which is a synonymous term for a man of honour, that those ladies are, as they have declared, utter strangers to me, since we never met before. But, not to keep you in suspense, my name is Malcolm Albany Montrose: my dress has doubtless informed you, that I am a Major in the ——— Highland regiment, now under sailing orders for Malta."

The Marquis's countenance, at this moment, baffles all description—astonishment, confusion, and chagrin, were equally legible upon his curled brow: he even retreated a few paces, while he contemplated the elegant youth, whose eyes were now fixed upon his cap, which he continued holding, and who durst not trust himself to look up, for fear of giving way to a shout of mirth.

The ladies participated in the old Peer's surprise, but not in his consternation, not having any idea of the near relationship

subsisting between their guests ; though it was very evident that the officer did not stand in any awe of the *great* Marquis of Derwent, which afforded them infinite satisfaction, as it was all in their favour, they conceived : indeed, the disconcerted Peer had never been more at a loss ; and sincerely did he wish that he had been rather more polite to this hitherto unknown grandson, since he no longer doubted the veracity of his fair mistress, as it was impossible this could have been a concerted meeting with the Major, considering the very short time he had been in town : yet he felt offended at the levity his sultana had displayed, in asking so fine a young fellow in at so improper an hour ; and the more so, since she had exposed him to so very unexpected and mortifying a *rencontre*. But as this was not a very proper time to devote to reflection, putting a good face upon the matter, he approached our hero, saying, “ I sincerely wish I had been at home, Major, when you did
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did me the favour of calling at Derwent House ; in which case we should have been better acquainted, and I should not for a moment have doubted the truth of Miss Alton's account of your *rencontre* ; but positively, unprepared as I was to meet a military Adonis in her apartment at so late an hour, I think I deserve great credit for the command of temper I displayed."

This was said in a very gay tone, while he seized our hero's hand, which he affected to shake very cordially.

"I am rejoiced your Lordship is now convinced that accident, not design, led me into the company of these ladies, who might, as they have informed you, have been very great sufferers, through my coachman's rashness. Their carriage has sustained very great injury—I had intended to have insisted upon having it repaired, at my expence."

"Say no more about what could not be avoided, I dare say, and receive my thanks for the assistance you afforded the girls.

But, to have done with the silly subject, may I hope you will spend a day with me before you leave London? How is the Marquis of Endermay?"

"He was not well enough to accompany me into Portland-place, where I dined with Lord ———; and from whence I was returning home, when I, so unfortunately for these ladies, came in contact with their carriage. I am sorry it will not be in my power to avail myself of your Lordship's polite invitation, since I leave town for Plymouth on Saturday, and expect to sail for Malta as soon as I arrive there."

"May you all speedily return, covered with glory!" was the reply, "as I look forward with impatience to our being better acquainted."

Our hero bowed, and made a motion to depart.

"Do not be in a hurry; I am in no haste to get rid of you now, so sit you down and drink a glass with me, while Se-
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rena finishes the song which I prevented her from concluding."

"Your Lordship must excuse me; I have already drank more than I am in the habit of doing, which led me into trespassing upon these ladies' politeness. Allow me to wish you a very good night."

"Well, I will not detain you against your will, as the Marquis of Endermay may be uneasy, should you make it late. My good wishes will accompany you, wherever you go; so adieu, till we meet again."

Malcolm bowed his return to this kind speech; and having again shaken hands with the Marquis, and bowed to the ladies, he left the room, Miss Charlotte following him out, when, having reached the street-door, she whispered, "Thank God, the storm has blown over! though, I dare say, we shall have a lecture of an hour long: but I feared there would have been an immediate separation of bed and board. Are you related to the old quiz above?"

Not having heard his grandfather close the door after him, the Major thought it very possible he might be upon the listen; he, therefore, merely pressed his companion's proffered hand, and, with a significant look, wished her a very good night.

She opened the street-door with an emphatic shake of the head, and he was not sorry to find his footmen in waiting within call, who hoped their master would not be offended at their having detained the chariot, contrary to his orders; but they feared it might have created some alarm, had it returned without him.

He gave them credit for their prudence, hoping that the mischief he had occasioned would prove a warning to the coachman, stepping into the carriage; and, in a very short time, he was safely housed in Arlington-street. He immediately retired, and the extra quantity of wine he had drunk acting as an opiate, he soon forgot the occurrences of the evening, in a sound sleep.

CHAP.

CHAP. IX.

WHEN he woke in the morning, his thoughts naturally reverted to the overnight's curious adventure ; and he was now convinced that the Marquis of Derwent fully deserved the reputation he bore. He was certainly still a very fine figure, and he looked at least ten years younger than he really was ; still it was very evident that he was the dupe of his sultana and her confidante ; and he deserved to be so, in his opinion, since his money must be his chief attraction in their eyes. Would their mortifying *rencontre* produce a reformation in his conduct, he wondered ; he feared not, as

he did not seem to think he was at all censurable for keeping a mistress; nay, perhaps he gloried in follies that he might fancy made him appear young, though they must render him the scorn of every man of sense.

The Marquis seemed much better, when he joined him at breakfast; and by way of amusing him, he candidly related his unexpected *rencontre* with Lord Derwent, which he did in so ludicrous a manner, that he succeeded in making the Marquis laugh very heartily, declaring that he should have enjoyed being present when he declared his name; observing, there must be a greater difference in his and the Marquis of Derwent's constitution, than there was in their age, as he was not more than three years his senior, and he had been in almost constant want of a nurse for the last seven years; while Lord Derwent kept a youthful mistress, at sixty-seven. Well might the present race of young men be said to glory in folly and
vice,

vice, with such examples daily before their eyes ! not sorry at having so favourable an opportunity to renew his counsels to his beloved heir, who felt by no means inclined, he assured him, to shine the polygraph of the amorous Marquis ; and as he was well convinced that it was generally known Lord Derwent kept a lady in a very high style, he did not scruple to mention his *rencontre* with the frail fair one, and subsequent meeting with his grandfather, to many of his brother officers ; of course, the circumstance soon found its way into the daily prints, to the great mortification of the evergreen Marquis. Fortunately, as he conceived, the young soldier left town on the Saturday, with Lord Endermay ; and we cannot say that he was followed, according to promise, by his good wishes, since he continually cursed his officiousness ; and he grew so jealous and suspicious of his mistress, that their daily quarrels foreboded a speedy separation.

Lord Endermay accompanied his be-
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loved Malcolm to Plymouth, where he remained till he sailed for Malta, when he returned into Scotland, more distressed in mind than when he had lost his only daughter; and the Castle so forcibly recalled to his mind the happy hours he had spent there with his grandson, that he resolved once more to visit Ireland, in hopes of shaking off the depression of spirits he laboured under, which, he trusted that change of scene, and Malcolm's letters, would, after a time, remove.

The Marquis of Derwent had hoped, when his grandson left London, that their *mal-à-propos rencontre* in Portman-street would have been forgotten, and that the public would have started some new game: but, ere the Major had sailed for Malta, he had the additional mortification of seeing himself caricatured in all the print-shops. Presuming that this fresh insult originated in the young soldier, he set so many engines at work to ascertain the fact, that he at last discovered he was indebted
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to Lord Dunluce for this favour; still, as he could not absolutely bring the charge home against *this young imp of the d-v-l*, who was still at Cambridge, he thought it most prudent not to make any stir in the business, since he thought it by no means impossible the boy would be encouraged by his father; and, after a time, some newer scandalous tale consigned the one to which he had given rise, to oblivion.

Lady Winifred Albany, who continued to reside at Highwood, had been shocked, when she learned that her brother, now a grandfather, and the guardian of her ward, still kept a mistress; and had, if some of the newspapers were to be believed, in consequence, challenged his grandson.—Now, though she had felt herself very much hurt at Lord Endermay's not having brought his heir to Highwood, previous to his going abroad, she perfectly exonerated the young man from blame, with respect to his suspected wish to rival Lord Derwent; nay, she even found excuses for

Lord Endermay's want of respect towards her, as she thought it very possible he might not approve of the heir to all his honours marrying her ward, as she was obliged to acknowledge that she had not improved in point of features, as she grew up; nor did she seem likely, by her accomplishments or literary acquirements, to compensate for her deficiency in point of elegance and grace: and, though there certainly are many very amiable people of the Jewish persuasion, there are also many whose features, complexion, and language, proclaim their extraction; and Miss Albany unfortunately ranked among the number, since, notwithstanding the pains her governess and Lady Winifred had taken to correct her pronunciation, *it vash still Jewish*; and her dark-blue eyes, and high cheek-bones, rather rendered the sallow hue she had inherited from her mother, more striking: she was, besides, a bad figure; and as her Ladyship's style of dress was in the fashion of the year 1760, when
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she shone a brilliant star in the *beau monde*, she would not allow her ward to conform, as she could have wished, to the reigning fashions; obliging her, in general, to assimilate with her formal ideas of propriety; not that we are advocates for transparent adhesive drapery; still, the formal mode of dress in which Lady Winifred persevered, if less repugnant to decency, was by no means calculated to display even a handsome face and figure to advantage; and her manners being equally precise, her *élève* was stiff and ungraceful, and the exact reverse of the belles of fashion, said the Marquis of Derwent, who had twice visited Highwood after his ward was growing into womanhood, who had always concluded by advising his sister to bring the girl to London, where she might place her under the tuition of a good dancing-master, and have her new-dressed by some of the first milliners, as she now reminded him of a faded wax figure of Queen Anne which he had once seen, whose staring
glass.

glass eyes gave her a ghastly appearance, and the resemblance of a corpse dressed in a suit of stiff brocade.

Lady Winifred retorted, that, had he set his sons a better example, there would never have been a Jewess of the name of Albany. The girl was not deficient in proper pride, and would not disgrace the family, by forming an improper connexion: she had had both precept and example; and, when she was in her twentieth year, she meant to take her to London. She had no notion of bringing out children in leading strings: in that respect, she coincided with Mr. Langhton; desiring the Marquis to remember, that Rosalie Langhton, who was three years her ward's senior, had never yet mixed with the world.

“Nor probably never would,” was the reply; but that was no reason why his ward should be immured in the country, where there was no chance of her ever having a decent offer; and indeed she did
not

not stand much chance of making a good match in London. Some ruined rake, like her father, might overlook her dialect, and other deficiencies; but no man of rank would ever lower himself, by such an alliance.

These strictures did not meet the approbation of Lady Winifred, therefore the brother and sister seldom parted friends; and her Ladyship did not fail to write him her sentiments pretty freely, when she learned that he kept a favourite sultana, at sixty-seven.

The Earl of Algernon had several times visited the old Lady, since his return from Madrid, and had, of course, introduced his son to her notice, who had, more than once, told his mother, boy as he was, that she did well to immure Miss *Hannah* as she did, as he should blush to acknowledge their relationship any where but at Highwood: and, much as Lady Winifred was prepossessed in favour of her nephew, she found much to condemn in his son, whom,
she

she seriously feared, bore a much greater resemblance to his grandfather than to his father. Lord Algernon was, therefore, a more welcome guest, when he did not bring Lord Dunluce with him; and the Earl's chief inducement for spending a few days with her Ladyship during the summer, was his wish to obtain some intelligence respecting his Catholic nephew and niece; but they were so seldom seen without the walls of their dreary abode, never during his residence in the vicinity, that he merely learned from general report, and from old Gordon, that Algernon Albany was a fine young fellow, and his sister the very image of his mother—from Ashton, the old house-steward, had learned that the boy was the greatest favourite with Mr. Langhton, who grew more severe in his religious notions, and more strict in the observance of the Catholic fasts and festivals, as he advanced in years; and he was upwards of seventy, having been near twenty years a professed monk,

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and had never been five miles from the Priory since he returned to England ; and as he deemed a life of seclusion extremely meritorious, he strongly enforced the necessity of living for God, not for man, to his descendants.

Ashton believed Lady William Albany did not absolutely approve of the retired life they led ; but Father Benedetto was always at hand to silence her objections, by reminding her that she had married a heretic, to enable her to partake of the sinful pleasures of the world ; and Mr. Langhton frequently declared, he should never survive either of his grandchildren following her example, though he often expressed a wish to see them united to good Catholics : and as he had some very distant relations, on his mother's side, of that persuasion, in Ireland, he sometimes talked of sending his grandson and his tutor, an English Catholic priest, thither, in search of a wife ; but not till the young man was of age, which he did not conceive
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he would be before he was five-and-twenty.

The Earl listened to these vague details with great attention, having conceived, upon mature reflection, that Lady William might, very innocently on her part, have been led to drop his correspondence; still he did not choose, unauthorised by her, to interfere respecting her children, as there was no likelihood of their succeeding to the family-honours and estates. He had greatly regretted not having seen their elder brother, previous to his leaving England, as he thought it possible he might not be permitted to return; as he was convinced, from the character he bore, that he would "be first in the throng," whenever he came face to face with the enemy.

Little of moment occurred during the first twelvemonth that our hero spent at Malta: he regularly corresponded with Lord Endermay, from whom he continued to receive the most salutary advice respecting

specting his future conduct, given in so affectionate a manner, that it had all the effect he wished or desired ; and as he also corresponded with his tutor, and several of his Scotch friends, he was perfectly *au fait* of what was going forward in England, and at Montrose Castle. But, early in the second year, the Marquis's letters became much shorter, and were so expressive of dejection, that he began to fear his health was not so good as when he left England ; and, when he communicated his apprehensions to Dr. Campbell, his tutor, he was obliged to acknowledge, in reply, that he feared the Marquis was breaking faster than, considering his age, might have been expected ; though he still hoped he would live to welcome the return of his dear grandson to the Castle ; who, could he have done so with honour, would have answered this letter in person ; but that was impossible, as there was every reason to suppose that his regiment, with several more then at Malta, would be sent upon
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an expedition to Egypt, it was surmised, very speedily : indeed the Marquis was so fearful that he might express a wish to return home, that he never touched upon his encreasing indisposition, always endeavouring to shake off his despondency, when addressing him ; and would have been very angry, had he known that Dr. Campbell had thought it necessary to be more explicit, as he conceived it right to prepare his pupil's mind against the worst that might happen.

Malcolm felt his kind intentions, and nobly resisted the anxious wish he felt to see his beloved grandfather once more ; since, till he had tried the temper of his sword against the boasted legions of Bonaparte, he could not think of returning home ; indeed, he was well aware that the Marquis would be the first to blame him for doing so, at so critical a juncture, since every preparation was making for the speedy embarkation of the troops : he was, therefore, obliged to content himself with
writing

writing to the Marquis and the Doctor, endeavouring to cheer the spirits of the first, by prognosticating that he should soon return, to announce their victory over the French, to whose plunder and rapine, he was convinced, the British would put an effectual check, when once they came face to face with them; and intreating the Doctor would write to him by every packet, as his letters would follow him wherever he went.

Before, however, he left Malta, fortunately during the hurry and bustle necessary attendant upon the embarking men and horses for distant service, he received the melancholy intelligence of his grandfather's demise, and his consequent accession to his title and estates. At any other time, the shock he sustained would have been infinitely more severe, as he was now prevented from giving way to his heart-felt grief, being obliged to exert his spirits, for fear the cause of his melancholy should have been mistaken. This enabled

enabled him, in appearance, to bear his loss with manly fortitude; and the consolatory tendency of Dr. Campbell's letter had also its due effect upon a well-regulated mind, which had not been enervated by dissipation: and as his Colonel, and all his friends, united their efforts to prevent him from giving way to unavailing regret, by the time they were under way, his first burst of grief had subsided into a more calm resignation to those decrees to which we ought to bow in silence. Fortunately, in his opinion, his regiment was among the first that were landed upon the coast of Egypt, and one of the first engaged with the enemy, during the memorable battle of Aboukir. We need not add, that the British arms proved victorious, though the death of their brave Commander was sincerely lamented by his brother officers, and the nation at large; and every rising generation will be taught to respect his name, which, like many more brave men, he has rendered immortal.

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We shall not enter into any details respecting what has been so frequently related, nor recapitulate the number of officers who suffered in the national cause : our hero merely received a slight cut across the forehead from a broad-sword, which might have proved of more serious consequence, had not his opponent been laid at his feet, nearly at the same moment, by the bayonet of one of his own men, which, of course, weakened the well-aimed blow ; indeed he would scarcely have been conscious of having received any injury, had it not been for the blood which flowed from the wound over his eyes ; but, as one of his brother officers observed, when all was over, he could not tell whether it had not rather impeded his sight, but he seemed to feel his way very dexterously, since nothing stopped his progress.

As it was, however, known that his presence was required in England, he was, as we have already related, sent over with the dispatches ; and, to his great surprise,
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met his uncle and cousin, upon his landing at Plymouth, from whom, our readers know, he almost immediately parted, being extremely anxious to reach London, where it may be supposed that he was most graciously received, and that he met with his full meed of praise from the great men in power, and was assured that his name should stand conspicuous in the next list of promotions: and as he found that the Commander-in-Chief was very anxious to reward merit, and that his recommendation would certainly be attended to, he ventured to point out several inferior officers, who had particularly distinguished themselves as worthy notice, and was solemnly assured, that they should not be forgotten nor overlooked. But as he was very anxious to be upon the road to Scotland, he was not sorry the town was so very empty; therefore, having finished all his business at the war-office, and paid his devoirs to all those who were entitled to such marks of his notice, at the expiration
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of a fortnight, he set out for Montrose Castle, having exchanged his regimentals for a suit of mourning, having resolved to pay every respect to the memory of his beloved grandfather, who, he could not help regretting, had not been spared to welcome his return, as he should doubly have prized the laurels he had won, had he been suffered to lay them at his feet.

Upon his arrival at the Castle, he found every thing in the most exact order, and Dr. Campbell still in possession, who hailed his return by every demonstration of affection, and who had regulated his household during his absence. The Marquis had made him sole heir, not only to all his estates, some of which were not entailed, but also to all his personals, which were very considerable; though he had provided very handsomely for all the old servants, to most of whom he had bequeathed annuities for life; and to Dr. Campbell he had left a small estate, upon

which there was a very good house, and three hundred a-year ; but he readily promised his beloved pupil, to remain at the Castle till he married. Malcolm wished him to have engaged for life ; but he gaily observed, that a young lady might object to having an old man for an inmate. This point was not, however, finally settled at this time, as our hero declared, he would never marry a woman who would consider his friends as troublesome guests. But, having looked into his affairs, and given orders to have all his grandfather's charitable institutions kept up in their accustomed style, even desiring some might be enlarged, he resolved to erect a superb monument to his memory ; and, in consequence, wrote to the celebrated Mr. N——, requesting he would send him some appropriate designs ; assuring Dr. Campbell, nevertheless, that he conceived the highest compliment which he could pay the deceased, would be to make his life his example ;

ample ; since, if he did but emulate his virtues, he trusted they should surely meet again, “ in another and a better world.”

CHAP. X.

DURING his very short stay in London, Lord Endermay called once at Derwent House, merely in conformity to the rules of etiquette ; he was, therefore, not sorry when he learned his grandfather was not in town : but as his having left a card in St. James's-square was, of course, made known to the Marquis, he resolved to be no less courteous ; and wishing, besides, to be upon good terms with this youthful favourite of fortune, his Lordship addressed

him, in the most flattering terms, from the Isle of Wight, where he was when he learned his return to Great Britain.

Our hero found his polite epistle at the Castle, whither the Marquis had presumed he would immediately bend his steps.— Though few men stood lower in his esteem than the writer, he was obliged to answer him in the same courtly style ; wishing he durst enquire whether Miss Alton still maintained her post of favourite sultana, though he thought it most likely the house in Portman-street had another fair tenant.

Scarcely, however, had he dispatched his missive, ere, to his encreasing surprise, he received a very formal, though extremely polite letter, from Lady Winifred Albany, who began by condoling with him upon the 'irreparable loss he had so lately sustained ;' bestowing some very just encomiums upon the late Lord Endermay. She next congratulated him upon his safe return, and upon having participated in the glorious victory which the British had gained

gained over their natural enemies; and concluded by intreating that he would favour her with a visit at Highwood, as soon as he could make it convenient, as she was extremely anxious to see the elder son of her favourite nephew, for whom she had always felt the sincerest regard.

As Malcolm had also long wished to see every individual belonging to his father's family, he was gratified by her polite invitation, which he could not attribute to interested motives; though he thought it might originate in curiosity, or more possibly, she entertained a hope that he might dispose of his heart in favour of her ward; in which case, he feared, she would be disappointed, since Miss Albany must be almost a faultless monster, to induce him to overlook her Jewish origin. Before, however, he had answered her Ladyship, to his encreasing astonishment, he received a letter from Langhton Priory, actually written by the owner of that ancient abode, which certainly did not lessen his surprise, as he

could hardly have supposed that he would have dared to have addressed a heretic: but as he had, even from childhood, felt very anxious to become acquainted with his unknown brother and sister, he was extremely gratified at being addressed by their grandfather, as it led him to hope that the first wish of his heart might be gratified. Now we also think it very probable, that Mr. Langhton might not have felt inclined to have addressed a *heretic*, and in a style of courtesy, if he had not been not only influenced, but urged to do so, by Father Benedetto, whose motives for being thus earnest in his wish to silence his patron's scruples, we do not think it necessary, at present, to detail; but he had, to the infinite satisfaction of Lady William Albany, declared that it would be right that the brothers and sisters should be introduced to each other. The present Marquis of Endermay, though a Protestant, was, like his grandfather, an honour to his rank; and Mr. Langhton would

would be deservedly censured, were he to object to his grandchildren being upon good terms with so near a relation; since their principles, at least Algernon's, were now so fixed, that there could be no fear of their changing their religion, or, as it was falsely termed by Protestant divines, abjuring their errors: and as the confessor was warmly seconded by Lady William, who felt herself greatly obliged to him, Mr. Langhton was persuaded to address our hero, whose answer would enable them to decide whether it would be proper to give him an invitation to visit the Priory; as he contented himself, in this first letter, with lamenting the demise of Lord Endermay, whom he could have wished had been spared, to glory in the fame which his Lordship had acquired at Aboukir, which he sincerely rejoiced at, having been at the expence of so little bloodshed.

Altogether, Malcolm was infinitely more pleased with this letter than with those from

Lord Derwent and Lady Winifred ; though he answered her Ladyship's very speedily, and promised to avail himself of her polite invitation, during the ensuing autumn.—To Mr. Langhton he wrote at greater length ; candidly acknowledging the impatience he had long felt to be, at least, personally acquainted with his brother and sister ; and requesting that Mr. Langhton, Lady William, and the young people, would favour him with their company, during the summer, at the Castle, where, as his regiment would probably soon return to England, he proposed remaining at least some months ; politely hinting, that Father Benedetto would be a no less welcome guest ; and concluding by a most affectionate address to Algernon and Rosalie, for whom he already felt a sort of intuitive regard.

So polite an answer, and which was dispatched by return of post, was extremely flattering to the Langhton family ; and, had the young people been allowed to follow

follow the bent of their inclinations, they would certainly have proceeded immediately into Scotland.

Father Benedetto did not, however, approve of such precipitate measures, though extremely gratified by the marked notice which had been taken of him; but the Marquis of Endermay's politeness was not to make them forget what was due to him or themselves; and Mr. Langhton was very unequal to the fatigue of such a journey, even had he not resolved never to sleep from home while he lived: but some means should be devised to gratify their very natural wish, without inconvenience to their grandfather, or trespassing upon Lord Endermay's hospitality; and with this assurance the young folks were obliged to be satisfied.

The Earl of Algernon, who was still more anxious to renew his acquaintance with the young Highlander, as he conceived that the intimacy would be of service to his son, and who had received a very press-

ing invitation to join him in Scotland, when his nephew sent his post-chaise to Bristol, resolved to shorten his tour, that he might spend at least a month at Montrose Castle. Therefore, having joined the Countess at Malvern, who, fancying she should feel herself rather awkwardly situated in the house of a young bachelor, declined accompanying them thither; though she had, of course, been included in the invitation they had received. But, as she was under an engagement to spend a short time with her brother, whose seat was in Worcestershire, she proceeded thither, when her husband and son set out for Scotland; promising to give them the meeting at Highwood, when they returned; where they stood engaged to spend a fortnight, before they proceeded to Woodville; where, as usual, they meant to spend their Christmas.

Lord Dunluce finding that it was in vain to hope he should be suffered to lounge away a month at some of the fashionable
water-

water-drinking places; rejoiced at the idea of visiting Scotland, as he had heard Montrose Castle was a very fine seat; and he was convinced that his cousin would be a most agreeable companion, he had seen so much of the world, and yet seemed so unaffected, and so good tempered.

The Earl hoped he had not made a less favourable impression upon Lord Endermay, and that he would endeavour to render himself agreeable to him, while they staid at the Castle, as it would be infinitely to his credit to be upon friendly terms with the young soldier.

Lord Dunluce prognosticated they should be sworn friends in a month.

The Earl wished they might; observing, that though Lord Endermay's head was unmellowed, his judgment was ripe; and he was fearful he would not make a friend of so fickle a mortal as he knew him (Lord Dunluce) to be; prognosticating that he would be tired of Scotland in a week.

This Lord Dunluce vehemently denied;

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observing,

observing, that he had purchased Thornton's Sporting Tour, and, by following that gentleman's method of killing time, he should indubitably guard against *ennui*.

The Earl wished he might succeed; and, after a very pleasant journey, they reached the Castle, the last week in August.

We do not mean to entertain our readers with a prolix description of this noble seat; suffice it to say, that it did honour to the taste of the person who erected it, and that it was a fit abode for a Scottish chieftain. Nature had rendered the surrounding park very beautiful, and it had also been highly cultivated by art: the prospect on all sides was sublime; and the interior of this noble mansion fully corresponded with its noble appearance. The library was immense, and very elegantly fitted up; and a room adjoining was appropriated to experiments in natural philosophy. The grand apartments were fitted up in a very superior style, magnificence not having excluded comfort.

Lord

Lord Dunluce was in raptures, from the moment he caught a glimpse of the mansion ; declaring that it gave him an idea of a baronial residence, which neither Woodville nor Derwent Park had ever done ; much less Highwood, which, in his opinion, greatly resembled a citizen's villa, at Hackney.

The Earl was rejoiced to find he had so true a relish for the beauties of nature ; adding, perhaps he might be able to prevail upon his cousin to suffer him to spend his winter in Scotland, as, he presumed, Lord Endermay meant to spend his in London ; and as Dr. Campbell, who had been his tutor, was still a resident at the Castle, it would be extremely conducive to his advantage.

His son took this raillery all in good part, and was in ecstasies when the carriage stopped at a noble flight of steps leading into the house, upon which stood the owner of the Castle, whose cordial welcome was extremely flattering to both
father.

father and son. In the saloon they were introduced to Dr. Campbell, who, being extremely gay for his years, was soon a great favourite with the young Viscount, as he by no means resembled the pedantic professor, who had been his private tutor at Cambridge ; and, for the first week, he certainly found Montrose Castle a most delightful residence, his cousin having introduced him to some of his juvenile neighbours, with whom he went a-fishing, upon some of the neighbouring lakes ; while his father and cousin explored the environs of the Castle, in various directions, on foot, or on horseback.

When they met at dinner, Lord Dunluce declared, he highly approved of Colonel Thornton's plan of life in the Highlands ; though he should prefer a cottage, upon the borders of one of the lakes, to his tent, for a temporary habitation ; protesting that he should never again relish fish, but of his own catching. But, at the expiration of ten days, he began to think shoot-
ing

ing was the preferable amusement ; since, unfortunately, in endeavouring to emulate Colonel Thornton, he fell over the side of the boat, while trying to recover one of his *fox-hounds*, as that gentleman styles some of his fishing-tackle ; and the compleat ducking he, in consequence, received, induced him to forswear s^o laborious an occupation : and as the shooting-season was begun, he now resolved to devote his mornings to that sport ; lamenting that his cousin did not keep hawks or falcons, as they would have varied the amusement :

Our hero promised to procure some against another season ; and as Lord Dunluce boasted of being an excellent shot, he hoped he would, for the present, make shift without them ; offering to accompany him a-shooting, the next morning : the Earl also chose to be of the party, as there were plenty of dogs. Therefore, after an early breakfast, they started.

The day being very fine, the Viscount prognosticated that they should have excellent

cellent sport; but he was soon distanced by his more active cousin, who having been accustomed, from a boy, to climb his native mountains, and being, besides, a keen sportsman, made himself ample amends for having spent the last two seasons at Malta: he was, in consequence, much the most successful of the three, being a most excellent marksman.

Lord Dunluce, who was extremely fatigued when he reached home, vowed he was out of practice, but made no doubt of soon bringing his hand in. He declined, however, accompanying the Marquis in future, preferring a ramble nearer home, with the under game-keeper; though he felt a very great regard for his cousin, notwithstanding he was so very much his superior; and Lord Algernon, more than once, wished he had borne more resemblance to him, since, though our hero was certainly not deficient in point of vivacity, and, at times, displayed traits of what might be deemed the characteristical levity
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of his father's family, he possessed a vigorous understanding, and more knowledge of the world, owing to his having so early embraced a military life, than he should have supposed ; still he appeared formed for domestic enjoyments, and to have inherited an innate love of virtue, dressed in its most pleasing form, from his maternal grandfather. His education had been extremely liberal, though he was certainly not so deep read as the late Marquis ; but he had more than a sufficient share of learning to secure him from the censure of the literati, and had, besides, a decided taste for the fine arts ; while the gaiety and sportiveness of his conversation inspired every one with a favourable opinion of his temper, and genuine goodness of heart. Sincerely, therefore, did the Earl hope he would work a reformation in the manners and opinions of his son, as he had never been blind, though sometimes rather too indulgent, to his failings.

At the expiration of the third week,
shooting

shooting was become, in the Viscount's opinion, as tiresome as fishing; and as the season was rather wet, he ceased to ramble in the environs; preferring billiards, in a warm room, to getting wet, in the pursuit of game.

Dr. Campbell endeavoured to amuse him, by displaying various curious experiments in natural philosophy; presuming he had been grounded in most of the sciences, at college; but was surprised to find, considering where he had been brought up, that he had merely skimmed the cup of learning, and was, in fact, incompetent to argue with Lord Endermay, upon any subject.

Lord Algernon saw, and lamented his deficiencies; but knew not how to remedy the evil, owing to the instability of his disposition: and as the evenings began to lengthen, he became as anxious to leave, as he had been to reach, Scotland; fancying that he should find more amusement at Highwood, if it was only in quizzing his
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prim maiden aunt, and her delectable ward: yet he did not choose to complain of *ennui* to his father, as his cousin certainly did every thing to render the Castle a pleasant abode to him, having introduced him, as we have already said, to several young Scotch nobles, of his own age, who were his frequent visitors, and at the houses of whose parents he had, more than once, an opportunity of seeing Highland reels danced in perfection, and of joining in the amusement, as the Marquis did not choose to give any *fêtes* or balls, while he was in mourning, which he proposed leaving off in October, not wishing to affect singularity, though he was anxious to pay every respect to the deceased.

October having commenced, Lord Dunluce began to think his father was resolved to remain at the Castle till Christmas; and had even ventured to hint, during their *tête-à-têtes*, that they had extended their visit to an unmerciful length—they should
tire

tire his cousin out ; besides, Lady Winifred would feel herself offended, if they remained much longer in Scotland.

The Earl was sorry he did not enjoy his cousin's society, which, to him, was a real treat, as he had never met with a more agreeable companion.

Lord Dunluce was ready to subscribe to the truth of all this ; but could not help saying, that he should enjoy his cousin's gay conversation more in London, where, he hoped, they should frequently meet.

The Earl knew it was in vain to argue with him, as he had already noticed his ill-concealed *ennui*, and had resolved to leave the Castle the ensuing week. He was, therefore, going to mention his intention to his nephew, while sitting round the bottle after dinner, when he was prevented, by the entrance of one of the servants out of livery, who informed the Marquis, that a gentleman of the name of Belthorpe, who was just arrived in a post-chaise, requested

requested to be favoured with a few minutes audience ; adding, “ he has been shewn into the library.”

“ Very well, I will join him immediately ; though, I presume, he means to put my hospitality to the test, by the hour he has chosen for his visit,” rising while speaking : and as his guests and Dr. Campbell had drank as much as they chose, they adjourned, at the same time, into the saloon.

A short stout man, about five-and-forty, whose dress resembled the general clerical costume, was standing near the fire, when our hero entered the library, to whom he bowed very profoundly, presuming, he said, he was addressing the Marquis of Endermay ?

Malcolm bowed an affirmative to his question ; and his unexpected guest, after apologising for his intrusion at such an unseasonable hour, which was entirely owing to his having been delayed upon the road,

road, by various trivial accidents, &c. &c. proceeded to inform his silent auditor, that he came ambassador from Langhton Priory, and was the bearer of letters to his Lordship, from his patron, its owner, and Lady William Albany, who would certainly have availed themselves of his polite invitation to visit Scotland, had not Mr. Langhton's great age precluded the possibility of his taking so long a journey; and Lady William hoped he would excuse her feeling averse to leave her father alone, even to seek the acquaintance of the Marquis of Endermay, anxious as she felt to be introduced to him, which induced her to hope that he would favour her with a visit in Lancashire. "But those letters, my Lord," he continued, "will perfectly explain the nature of my errand hither, as I was merely to enforce the request they contain; and I trust you will not put a negative upon what they so earnestly desire, since I positively believe Mr. Langhton will not
meet

meet death with the same composure, if he is prevented from introducing his grandchildren to your notice."

Having suffered this self-created ambassador to bring his prolix harangue to a conclusion, the Marquis requested he would take a seat, assuring him, that any friend of Mr. Langhton's must be a welcome guest at Montrose Castle; acknowledging that he had hoped, when he said he came from the Priory, that the family from thence were upon the road, hoping he had left them all well; adding, "I find I must, like Mahomet, go to the mountain, since that will not come to me, as I am no less anxious than they can be, to see Algernon and Rosalie. But you have dismissed your chaise, I hope, Sir, as I shall certainly make you my prisoner, while you remain in Scotland. Have you dined?"

Belthorpe assured him that he had, being accustomed to very early hours; acknowledging that he had not dismissed his chaise,

chaise, having proposed sleeping at the next stage.

The Marquis instantly rung the bell, and gave the necessary orders; and, when the servant had retired, he broke the seal of Mr. Langhton's letter, which was, like his first, extremely polite; and his excuses for not having accepted his Lordship's invitation, were perfectly satisfactory; concluding by hoping, the person he was addressing would favour him with a visit, at the Priory, before the winter set in.

Our hero instantly resolved to oblige him; and Lady William's letter, which he read next, would have removed all his scruples, had he been less inclined to visit the *Sancta Casa*, as he felt that her request to see him proceeded from the heart; and she was so earnest in her entreaties, and expressed such anxiety to introduce her children to his notice, that, had it not been for his guests, he should have felt half inclined to have answered her letter in person:

son: but, as he had also perceived that his cousin was heartily weary of Scotland, therefore did not suppose his uncle would remain much longer at the Castle, he thought he might venture to tell Mr. Belthorpe, that he would set out for Lancashire, as soon as his present guests bent their steps thither; mentioning who they were, and that they meant to proceed to Highwood, from the Castle; adding, “possibly you can spend a few days with me, Mr. Belthorpe, at the expiration of which, I dare say, I shall be able to fix a time for visiting the Priory.”

“Your Lordship certainly holds out a very flattering inducement to incline me to postpone my departure; and, were I absolutely my own master, I should need no pressing to become your guest, till you were quite tired of me: but I cannot spend more than a couple of days at the Castle, during which time you may probably be able to decide when we may hope to see you in Lancashire, where your arrival will

be impatiently expected, from the moment I return. We place no faith in the present Pope ; but even the last would not have been a more welcome guest within its walls."

The Marquis smiled at the far-fetched compliment ; but, wishing to know something more of his visitor, before he introduced him to Lord Algernon, neither Mr. Langhton nor Lady William having entered into any explanation concerning him, he said, " You reside there, I presume ? "

" I have done so for the last eight years, my Lord Marquis, in the capacity of private tutor to the honourable Mr. Albany ; and I might also add, as deputy to the head chaplain, Father Benedetto, of whom you have doubtless already heard, as he has resided there ever since Clement the Fourteenth abolished the Order of Jesus, of which he was member. Mr. Langhton was professed in the same convent ; of course, they have been sworn friends, from
their

their youth; and I believe there is not more than a twelvemonth's difference in their age: and Mr. Langhton, though a grandfather, is still a monk at heart; and as a monk continues to have the guidance of his conscience, I despair of ever seeing him more liberal-minded."

These were doubts our hero could not resolve; and as he did not choose to appear curious, he forbore making any enquiries respecting the family, but proposed joining his guests in the saloon, and introducing the stranger to them and Dr. Campbell.

Mr. Belthorpe made no objection; sincerely wishing that he could change situations with the latter gentleman, whom, he understood, held the same post at Montrose Castle, which Father Benedetto did at the Priory; and, could his abjuring his Popish errors have procured him such a snug birth, he would have made no scruple of doing so immediately, as he bore no

small resemblance to the celebrated vicar of Bray, and could be all in all with all men.

CHAP. XI.

LORD Endermay introduced his guest, in due form, to the gentlemen in the saloon; mentioning, of course, from whence he came, and upon what errand; adding, "and I mean, in consequence, to put Mr. Langhton's hospitality to the test, between this and Christmas."

"Then I must request you will allow Henry to remain in possession here," said Lord Algernon, "as he is very anxious to spend his winter at the Castle. I will accompany

company you southward, as soon as you please."

This was said in a very gay tone; and Lord Dunluce declared, that he would even forego his own wish to remain in Scotland, to enjoy their company; therefore, he did not care how soon they were upon the road.

"I give you credit for the conclusion of your speech," rejoined the Earl; "though I believe you are as partial to Lord Endermay, as it is in your fickle nature to be to any one: yet, I am well convinced, so anxious are you to change the scene, that you would leave us both behind, rather than spend another month here; though I know you will find yourself infinitely more dull at Highwood; and there I shall certainly remain at least a month, if not six weeks, as I wish to pay my aunt proper respect. However, as I had resolved, before Mr. Belthorpe's arrival, to leave Scotland early in the next week, and as I now hope you will bear us

company, Marquis, suppose we start on Tuesday ?”

“ I must petition for another week, my dear uncle, even at the risk of incurring my cousin’s anger, as I cannot conveniently leave home before ; and I shall not willingly forego the advantage of travelling with you. My very near relationship to some part of the Langhton family, must plead my excuse to Lady Winifred, for taking up my abode first at the Priory ; though I shall certainly, if she can give me house-room, spend a few days with her before I leave Lancashire.”

“ She will keep you to your word,” rejoined the Earl, “ as she could accommodate a much larger party than we shall be, though her house is not quite upon so large a scale as Montrose Castle ; and she, as well as I, shall expect to see you very often, while you reside at the Priory, which is not more than three miles distant from her seat. I need not add, as Dr. Campbell has promised to be your representative

sentative here during that festive season, that you stand engaged to spend your Christmas at Woodville; and as I shall wish to be there early in December, you must not engage to spend more than a fortnight, or three weeks, at the Priory, since I know you will be obliged to devote at least ten days to Lady Winifred: however, if you come into my plans, I will into yours, else I am off to-morrow morning, fasting."

Lord Dunluce, though really attached to his cousin, could have wished they might; but as the Marquis cheerfully acceded to all his uncle's wishes, he was fain to have recourse to patience.

The entrance of the servants with tea and coffee, broke in upon the discourse; and, after they had retired, Mr. Belthorpe, in reply to a question of the Earl of Algernon's, gave the gentlemen a short abstract of his life. He was born in England, and of English parents, he said, but did not mention where, nor his father's

rank in life ; and had been educated at Douai, in the *ci-devant* French Flanders, from whence he had been removed to a stricter seminary, in the interior of France, to study theology ; relating when and where he had been ordained : soon after which, by the interest of kind friends, he had been appointed confessor to a convent of English nuns, at Pontoise, near Paris ; “ and in that enviable situation,” he added, with an ironical smile, “ I continued, till the French Revolution obliged *Mesdames the Benedictines*, and myself, to seek our safety in flight. I shall not tire you, gentlemen, with enumerating the various hardships I underwent, before I was safely landed in Great Britain : fortunately I was very soon recommended to the notice of Mr. Langhton, who wanted a preceptor for his grandson ; and as my education had fitted me for the post, and he was rather pleased to find I had scarcely ever emerged from the solitude of a cloister, I was soon installed at the Priory, where I have re-
sided

sided for the last six years, which, I hope, have not been very unprofitably spent by my pupil, whom Mr. Langhton will not allow to have yet attained the years of discretion ; though I hope, Lord Endermay, you will find him better informed, and less rustic, than you may, nay must expect."

The person whom he addressed assured him he was prepared to regard him as a brother, and made no doubt of finding him a very amiable, if not a very fashionable, member of society.

Lord Algernon spoke highly in praise of Lady William ; enquiring whether her children greatly resembled her ?

" Miss Albany is her very image, my Lord ; therefore, I need not add, very handsome. My pupil is a fine young man, not very tall, and rather stout, owing to his not taking sufficient exercise, in my opinion : Mr. Langhton thinks him very like his deceased brother, Reginald : Father Benedetto declares, he strongly reminds him of the late Lord William, whom he

once saw, previous to his marriage. Her Ladyship is not of the same opinion, as she sides with Mr. Langhton. I am no judge; though, I own, he does not, in my opinion, greatly resemble the portrait of his uncle."

"Nor does he, I should suppose, bear any great resemblance to Lord Endermay," resumed the Earl, "as he is infinitely more like his mother, Lady Zara Montrose, than his father, who had dark eyes and hair."

"I cannot say I have discovered any family-likeness between the brothers, my Lord; but, from what you have said, I should suppose Mr. Albany is rather like Lord William, as he has dark eyes and hair: but there certainly is a something in the expression of the Marquis's countenance, which has, more than once, reminded me of Miss Albany."

"I am glad to hear you say so," rejoined our hero; "but you shall see my father's picture in the morning, and I do hope you will pronounce it like my brother,

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ther, as I should wish his features, which are extremely handsome, and very expressive, might distinguish one of his children."

The conversation now took a more general turn ; and, during supper, Mr. Belthorpe convinced his host, and all those present, that, however he might, in appearance, conform to the rigid notions of Mr. Langhton, he was by no means averse to participating in the pleasures of the table, nor by no means scrupulous with regard to drinking : and, at their usual hour, the party separated for the night, the groom of the chambers having been summoned to conduct the new-comer to the apartment allotted him.

Lord Dunluce, ever eager in the pursuit of novelty, chose to accompany his cousin into his dressing-room, which was contiguous to his own ; when, having given his opinion very freely of Belthorpe, he said, " I wish old Langhton had included me in the invitation you have received to visit

the Priory ; I should have enjoyed accompanying you there, in preference to going to aunt Win's, who, *entre nous*, has been my aversion, time out of mind ; and I am no favourite of the prim spinster's, since I cannot avoid quizzing her now and then ; and her ward, whom she has modelled exactly after herself, always sits with her hands before her, and as upright as a dart ; and never speaks but when spoken to, and then in monosyllables—' Yes, Ma'am'—' No, my Lord ;' or now and then, when answering her oracle, ' As you please, Ma'am.' As for calling me cousin, or Henry, she would be shocked at so indecorous a proceeding ; so I am my Lorded over, till I am sick of the very sound of my title."

" I see nothing reprehensible in our cousin's conduct, my dear Dunlace—it may not be fashionable, but surely it is very inoffensive ; and she may have a good understanding, and great parts, for any thing you know to the contrary."

“I tell you, she is a mere automaton ; moves by rule, and utters, parrot-like, the routine of pretty speeches she has been taught. I am continually upon the point of calling her Pretty Poll, and scratching her poll, while she is ringing her usual changes in my ears, about Lady Winifred’s goodness, Lady Winifred’s sense of propriety, Lady Winifred’s attention to decorum, &c. &c.”

“All meant for your good, and to impress you with due respect for your aunt,” gaily replied our hero.

“Then she will never succeed. Now, I dare say, Algernon and Rosalie Albany are true children of nature : I positively long to be introduced to them—they must be amiable, if they resemble you ; and I am sure you will procure me an invitation to the Priory, which I have always longed to visit, when I have been at Highwood.”

“I will certainly do my endeavour to oblige you, as I hope you will not take the opportunity either to quiz or caricature
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ture Mr. Langhton. But there is another matter also to be taken into consideration. Belthorpe, you know, says Rosalie is very handsome : now, I do not suppose she will be permitted to marry a Protestant ; therefore, had not you better avoid temptation ? besides, you might unintentionally rob her of her heart. Therefore, all things considered, I fear I must decline being your master of the ceremonies upon the occasion."

" I know you are quizzing me now, Marquis, since you cannot suppose that I would endeavour clandestinely to obtain the affections of your sister ; and I have not the vanity to suppose that she would find any thing to admire in me ; though, very possibly, she might think there was much to condemn : so I know you will oblige me, as I shall indubitably die of *ennui* at Highwood, if you refuse to gratify my wishes."

" Then, to enable you to sleep in peace, I promise to do so, if Mr. Langhton does
not

not absolutely prohibit the visits of young unmarried Protestants—no unlikely thing. But, as my uncle wishes to renew his intimacy with Lady William, who is equally anxious to be again upon good terms with him, I dare say he will bring you with him to the Priory.”

“ That is not so certain : I depend more upon you than my father, as there will be many forms to go through, before the Earl is upon an intimate footing with your mother-in-law ; and, even when they are, I know he will object to my visiting the holy abode, for fear I should unwittingly offend any of its inmates. But positively I will scale the walls, rather than be disappointed ; I should so enjoy seeing those old men upon their knees in the cold chapel, at four o’clock in the morning, at this season, when their teeth must chatter in their head.”

“ Then positively I will not put it in your power to ridicule or caricature any set of people, while at their devotions, and
performing

performing what they consider as a sacred duty."

"You must excuse my levity, my dear cousin—it is constitutional, and I often speak without reflection; since, believe me, I shall always respect the Langhtons as your relations. The old confessor would be fair game—you would not object to my quizzing him."

"It would be rather a dangerous pastime; therefore you must give me your honour not to give way to this absurd propensity, ere I introduce you to the family."

"I will enter into any engagements you may require, if you will but gratify my longing wish to see this curious family: so only promise to oblige me, and I am off."

The Marquis did as he desired, with the proviso, that he gave him no reason to recall his word *ad interim*; and, when left to himself, our hero wondered what this restless, changeable, mad-brained cousin of his would turn out in the end. His father was
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one of the most amiable men he had ever met with, and he was evidently in constant dread of his son's giving into every fashionable folly ; and was, therefore, taking every precaution to keep him out of temptation, and at a distance from his dissipated friends : but as he must, ere long, be, in many respects, his own master, he feared that he would then dash at once into life, as he called it, and thus overturn all Lord Algernon's plans for his future welfare and establishment, and occasion both him and the Countess many uneasy hours. This train of thought brought his own father to his recollection : he might have been reclaimed, Lord Endermay had always maintained, had he been properly taken, or had his first wife lived. His errors had, however, been so judiciously pointed out to him by his grandfather, and their consequences so strongly impressed upon his mind, that he had, though with some difficulty, persevered in his resolution, never to drink more than did him good, nor
ever

ever to touch either a card or a dice-box, when in company with known gamesters, even of any rank ; and he had also determined never to keep a mistress, for fear she should prove a second Miss Alton, who, he understood from his cousin, had long since been dismissed by her antiquated admirer, who had had a succession of frail fair ones in keeping since ; and report said, that he had recently brought out a beautiful rustic, whom he had met with at some obscure village, and who was now the envy of the sisterhood, he maintained her in such a style, having taken her to various water-drinking places, and finally settled her in an elegant habitation, near London. “ The old man had, therefore, a spirit,” Lord Dunluce had observed, appearing more inclined to applaud than to condemn what he (Lord Endermay) thought the climax of folly.

Belthorpe, who was an early riser, had rambled about the home-grounds and gardens, before the family met at breakfast, when

when he mentioned where he had been, bestowing some very just encomiums upon the arrangements of both; presuming that Montrose Castle was a very ancient structure.

“I believe it may rank with Langhton Priory, in that respect,” was the reply.

“To which do you give the preference, Sir?” enquired Lord Dunluce.

“To the Castle, without a doubt, my Lord. Here we may enjoy every comfort, and every luxury this world can afford—at the Priory, we merely seek to prepare ourselves for the future; and I am afraid we consider self-mortification to be more efficacious than charity, which is, I understand, indiscriminately distributed, by the owner of this noble seat, to people of every persuasion: probably Mr. Langhton may be no less renowned for his piety; but that is certainly a mere selfish virtue, and of less utility to the community in general. Lady William Albany is both pious and charitable—I wish I could say
the

the same of her father; but, except to Catholics, he is not inclined to part with even his superfluities."

Breakfast being, however, over, Lord Endermay, according to promise, led his guest into the picture-gallery, and pointed out a fine whole-length portrait of his father, which had been done when he married, by Sir Joshua Reynolds; adding, "my mother hangs on the other side of my grandfather: but, can you trace any resemblance of my brother, in the countenance of Lord William Albany?"

"I positively cannot, my Lord Marquis: he is certainly more like his great-uncle than his father—her Ladyship often says so: hitherto I have been undecided in my opinion, as I never could discern the great resemblance Mr. Langhton sees between him and a picture of the late Mr. Reginald, his brother; but now I agree he is in the right, since in no respect does he resemble Lord William Albany. Your Lordship is certainly more like your mother, still you have

have your father's features, and seem the very counterpart of him, in point of figure; and your sister has his mouth, and, at times, the expression of her countenance greatly resembles this picture."

"As a baby, I thought her rather like her father," said the Earl—"however, I do hope I shall soon have an opportunity of renewing my acquaintance with her and her mother: I am also very anxious to see her brother: so, as a preliminary step, Mr. Belthorpe, make my best compliments to Lady William Albany, and tell her, I shall no longer content myself with hearing of her welfare, except she forbids my intended visit."

Belthorpe was sure she would be more inclined to hasten than to forego such a pleasure; and, by way of shewing him some of the *lions* in the environs, the gentlemen took a long ride with him; but little more of moment occurred during his stay; and, on the third morning, he was
reluctantly

reluctantly obliged to depart, having been highly gratified by the polite reception he had met with, and greatly prepossessed in favour of our hero, who made him the bearer of two letters in answer to those he had brought, and two others to his brother and sister, whom he addressed in the most affectionate manner, and in terms certainly calculated to insure their regard.

When he drove from the door, Lord Algernon said, he was fearful he was not so comfortably situated at the Priory as he had been at Pontoise, as he had always understood the directors of nuns' consciences were very much envied.

"He is not a man of family, I should suppose," resumed Malcolm, "he passed so lightly over his birth."

"Probably the natural son of some dignified Catholic priest," replied the Earl, "who devoted him to the church, by way of obtaining remission for his own sins."

"Now, had I ventured to broach such a surmise,"

a surmise," said Lord Dunluce, " you would have condemned my want of charity, Sir."

" Very probably ; and I have nothing to offer in extenuation of mine."

" Be that as it may, I am equally reprehensible," observed Dr. Campbell, " as I am perfectly of your opinion, my Lord. He is not, however, an unpleasant companion, and I dare say he is a very good scholar."

" That I very much doubt, Doctor," rejoined Lord Algernon, " since I never yet met with a very learned Catholic priest ; and I perceived how adroitly he evaded entering the lists with you. His religion was, I dare say, his greatest recommendation, in Mr. Langhton's eyes."

The Doctor said no more ; and the person who had given rise to this debate, having met with no delays upon his return, reached the Priory within the given time ; and met with a very cordial welcome, in consequence of his having succeeded in
engaging

engaging Lord Endermay to visit the holy pile, in whose praise he was certainly very eloquent; and, had his minute description of Montrose Castle been taken in shorthand, we might have gratified our readers with entering into the same details he did to his attentive auditors; and it may be supposed that he did not forget to mention that the Marquis kept a most excellent table, that his ponds abounded with fish, and his manors with game; then, such a herd of deer were sheltered in the parks, he had never eat finer venison. His Lordship's hot-houses afforded him a succession of all the rarest fruits; and his conservatory, or winter-garden, could only be compared to the one annexed to the Taurida Palace at Petersburg.

Algernon Albany thought his brother must be the happiest of men; and more than once told his tutor, during their *tête-à-têtes*, that he wished they could change places—"Then, how we should live, B——! However, I do hope we shall

shall enjoy a little of life by-and-by; though, I suppose, my mother will not give up much while she lives: but, if I do but come in for the old man's personals at his death, I won't be moped up here much longer."

Belthorpe applauded his spirit; but as we do not wish to introduce him furtively or prematurely to our readers, we will, for the present, return to Scotland, where no event occurred, after his departure, worthy recording in our story. Therefore, at the appointed time, leaving Dr. Campbell to represent him in his absence, after making him promise to join him in London in the spring, our hero left the Castle, with his uncle and cousin, choosing to travel, as they did, with his own horses; and when they preferred the curricule to a close carriage, he rode on horseback: and as the roads were good, and the weather fine, they did not hurry, though they never stopped more than a day any where; and, on the 27th of October, they reached Pres-

ton, between one and two; where, after taking an early dinner, they had resolved to separate.

During their repast, Lord Algernon assured our hero, that he was convinced Lady Winifred would be all impatience to see him; and if he entertained any hopes of figuring in her will, he must devote at least a fortnight to her, as he knew she was all anxiety to have him for her inmate, as she had a very great predilection in favour of titled men.

“ And then the Endermays are such an ancient family,” obtruded Lord Dunluce—
“ If you are not perfectly *au fait* of your genealogy, she will put you right, cousin; since even I, from having heard them described so often, was as well acquainted with your family-arms before I saw them emblazoned upon your library-windows, as you ever were; I also knew how you quartered those of our family with those of Endermay, upon your carriages: aunt Win is certainly, in that respect, as useful

as

as a good edition of the Peerage. But remember your promise to introduce me at the Priory, if it is merely out of compassion to my eyes ; since, after having been seated *vis-à-vis* Miss Albany for a few times, it will be a great relief to them to be indulged with a sight of your lovely sister."

"If I am received at the Priory," interrupted Lord Algernon, "I may, as a matter of form, take you there ; but I must request your cousin would not receive you, should you ever take it into your head to go thither alone. I trust and hope that Rosalie Albany will make a good match ; but, even were you a Catholic or she a Protestant, I should not wish her election should fall upon you ; therefore, do not fancy I shall ever suffer you to visit the Priory, but *en ceremonie*. I am thus explicit, as I wish to convince you that I am perfectly serious : your cousin can appreciate my motives for being so ; and he is aware, if you are not, that Mr. Langhton will never more than tolerate a Protes-

tant of your age, while Rosalie remains unmarried."

Our hero did not choose to interfere between the father and son, though he highly approved of all his uncle had said, as he felt he should have been in a very awkward predicament, had he introduced his cousin to his sister, and had they become attached to each other; and the very difficulties that would have intervened, would have fanned his cousin's flame, who was obliged to content himself with his father's promise to take him once to the Priory, were he admitted there himself, which would be quite sufficient to gratify his curiosity to see the inside of the venerable fabric; and, between four and five o'clock, the three gentlemen stepped into their respective post-chaises, after taking a very kind leave of each other: Lord Algernon and his son proceeded to Highwood, while our hero took the route to the Priory.

CHAP. XII.

LORD Endermay had sent his courier forward from Preston, to announce his approach; and to bespeak stabling, &c. for his horses, at Chedworth, having determined that none of his servants, his valet excepted, should take up their abode within the holy pile; feeling convinced that its owner would feel much more at his ease, when he found that his *Catholic* household would not be obliged to hold converse with such a set of heretics. Donald, his valet, who had lived with him from a child, would, he knew, like himself, avoid religious disputes, and was too well behaved to give offence to this sober set.

It was nine miles from Preston to the Priory ; and as the evening closed in very dark, Malcolm was unable to reconnoitre the very handsome Gothic portal at which the carriage stopped. The attending servants having rung at the bell, an elderly female, in a brown serge gown, who strongly reminded him of the *tourière*, or portress, of a nunnery, having unbolted and unlocked the massive gates, the postillions drove into a large paved court, surrounded by cloisters, which still exhibited some beautiful specimens of Gothic carving, as the oak-impannelled roof, or ceiling, was still in excellent preservation ; and, upon a nearer inspection, our hero thought it far exceeded many of the kind he had seen abroad, having more than once visited Italy, while at Malta.

The carriage having drawn up to the grand entrance, Mr. Ashton, who was still major-domo at the Priory, advanced to open the door ; but the courier who was in waiting being far more alert, prevented him

him from displaying his dexterity, and Malcolm jumped out, repeating his former orders to Donald, to send the carriage to Chedworth as soon as he had taken out the baggage.

Mr. Belthorpe was hastening through the hall, as his Lordship entered the mansion, and immediately called out, bowing as he advanced, "Welcome to Langhton Priory, my Lord Marquis—I hope you had a pleasant journey;" while old Ashton, who had been silently gazing at the young soldier, as he lightly ascended the steps leading into the house, muttered to himself, "This looks like a son of Lord William Albany's—he was just such a figure;" forgetting that he had never before acknowledged having seen this said Lord William.

Malcolm took no notice, being anxiously looking round him: but the lanthorn, which was suspended in the middle of the immense hall, once the refectory of its holy inmates, merely, in his opinion, ren-

dered the darkness more visible ; and, even by daylight, he conceived the high arched windows scarcely admitted light enough to distinguish objects at the farther end.

Having returned Mr. Belthorpe's compliments, his Lordship followed him, across a long passage, into a parlour, of nearly the same dimensions as the entrance-hall, the door of which had been previously thrown open ; and Belthorpe, acting as groom of the chambers, though several ancient domestics stood in the background, announced the Marquis of Endermay, who was met, almost at the entrance, by a very tall elderly man, whose monastic stoop, downcast eyes, and dark-brown suit, led him to suppose was Mr. Langhton ; nor was he mistaken, as Belthorpe announced him as such ; and never, our hero thought, had he seen melancholy superstition so legibly written upon the countenance of any one. He, however, paid his compliments very politely to the young Peer, and welcomed him very cordially to the
Priory ;

Priory ; and finally introduced him, first to his daughter, who, though in her forty-first-year, still displayed *traits* of her youthful beauty ; and, though she was not dressed in the reigning fashion, she had, in the highest degree, the appearance of a gentlewoman, but appeared to have imbibed a small share of her father's melancholy.

Her reception of our hero was exactly calculated to improve the very high opinion he had formed of her ; and she felt an intuitive regard for him, from the moment of his entrance, as he recalled his father so forcibly to her memory, that she could not disguise the starting tears, while repeatedly bidding him welcome. She then introduced him to her children ; and he felt almost instantly a fraternal regard for the lovely Rosalie, who was the living image of her mother, and who, at two-and-twenty, seemed to possess all the *naïveté* and simplicity of sixteen, and to be wholly unconscious that she was a brilliant of the

first water, since she might almost have disputed the palm of beauty with his late mother.

Rosalie was no less struck with the fine manly figure and handsome countenance, which bore a decided character of courtly ease and politeness, of this hitherto unknown elder brother, to whom Algernon Albany was certainly a very good foil; and our hero did not wonder at his being the favourite of Mr. Langhton, as he fancied he was much more like that gentleman than Lady William, or Rosalie, had ever been; and certainly bore no resemblance to his deceased father, as his countenance, though what is termed a dark man, was very deficient in point of expression; and, as he was very stout, he looked shorter than he really was; and, never having learned dancing, he appeared extremely awkward, and very rustic and uncouth in his manners. He was, however, very happy to see the Marquis, who, on his side, gave him no reason to suppose

5 pose

pose he was deficient in natural affection ; and Algernon was not sparing of his welcomes, to which his hearty shake of the hand added strength.

Mr. Langhton broke in upon his discourse, by requesting to introduce Father Benedetto, one of the best and worthiest of men, to the Marquis of Endermay, who, not having a very great predilection in favour of Catholic priests, or monks, of any denomination, merely bowed in reply to the friar's panegyrist, as he fancied he discerned great art in the demeanour of this specious director of Mr. Langhton's conscience, though it was concealed under an appearance of primitive simplicity ; and he seemed among the most rejoiced to see the young Peer in Lancashire.

Lady William now requested their guest would take possession of an arm-chair near the fire, as she feared their large rooms were not so warm as those he had been accustomed to.

“ Your Ladyship forgets that I am a Highlander, and a soldier ; therefore, ought

to be inured to cold ; though I think that cheerful word *fire*, must banish the sensation from this apartment," seating himself where she desired, while Mr. Langhton politely enquired whether he had dined ? as he had understood, from Mr. Belthorpe, he never did so before six, at Montrose Castle.

Malcolm told him that he had taken that repast with his uncle and cousin, which led to enquiries after their health, while Lady William ordered tea and coffee, which was soon brought in ; and a sort of desultory conversation ensued, respecting his Lordship's journey, the state of the roads, travelling abroad, &c. which led to enquiries respecting the battle of Aboukir, and to our hero's doing ample justice to the merit and bravery of the immortal Abercrombie, who had communicated a portion of his courage and spirit to those under his command.

" You were wounded, we understood," said Lady William.

" So slightly, that I am fearful my honourable

nourable scar will soon be imperceptible," raising his hair, to shew her Ladyship where he had been hurt.

"How fortunate you escaped so well!" exclaimed Rosalie; "though I am convinced you will never lose that memento of French ferocity."

"Nay, my dear girl, I should have been equally ferocious in defence of my country."

Father Benedetto assured him, in reply, that he should not have scrupled to have blessed the British arms, upon such an occasion; declaring that Bonaparte appeared to him to be the Antichrist, quoting various scriptural authorities in support of his opinion.

The Marquis did not choose to enter the lists with him, as he seemed to be both a shrewd and subtle disputant; smooth and insinuating in his manners, and bearing, in his opinion, strong traits of resemblance to the disciples of Ignatius Loyola. Had he not previously resolved, neither to appear

pear curious, nor to seem surprised at any thing that might strike him as extraordinary, during his stay at the Priory, he would have enquired whether the family had already taken tea, as it was now prepared evidently for him alone; and, scarcely had the tea-equipage been removed, ere he was rather startled by the unexpected ringing of a large bell, in the immediate vicinity of the apartment.

“ There is our summons to vespers,” said Mr. Langhton—“ I shall not pay your Lordship so poor a compliment, as to break through our established rules, out of mere ceremony. Lady William Albany will remain with you, while we adjourn to chapel. This is the eve of St. Simon and St. Jude, which our religion enjoins us to keep holy.”

“ I should be extremely hurt, Sir, were you to treat me as a ceremonious guest,” was the reply.

Father Benedetto, therefore, instantly rose, and, followed by Mr. Langhton and his

his grandchildren, Belthorpe bringing up the rear, left the room : and no sooner was the door closed upon them, than Lady William requested leave of absence for a few minutes ; adding, “ our servants are so unused to company, that I must repeat some of my former orders to them, as I wish to render your Lordship’s abode here as comfortable as circumstances will admit ; and, without waiting for an answer, she hastened out by a door opposite the one by which the rest of the family had just made their exit. -

Being thus left alone, our hero rose from his arm-chair, to take a survey of the spacious apartment in which he had been so hospitably received. As far as he could judge, when he had measured it with his eye, it was about forty-two feet in length, and twenty-eight in width ; a very good wood fire was burning in an immense chimney, surmounted by some rich old oak carving ; the wainscot was of the same wood, divided into Gothic pannels, and the

the ceiling of equal ancient date, and of the same materials: six long narrow windows ran on one side of this *diminutive* apartment, which looked, he presumed, into the garden, and over which were now drawn a set of faded green damask curtains, which appeared to have descended from generation to generation, to the present owner: a carpet, which covered about one-half of the apartment, was extended in the middle, and appeared to be of the same date as the curtains: heavy oak-tables stood between the piers, and a very large mahogany ditto at the farther end, opposite the fire: about a dozen high cane-backed chairs, and two curiously carved ebony armed ones, from one of which he had risen, and which bore the date of 1574, was all the furniture the room contained; though in each gloomy pannel hung a whole-length portrait of some dignitary of the Romish church, some in papal, others in cardinals' and bishops' robes; and over the chimney was a very fine picture, by an
Italian

Italian master, of the Descent from the Cross ; but of this he had a very imperfect view, by the feeble glimmer which two wax-lights, in gilt sconces, at either extremity of the immense chimney, afforded him ; and a pair more, which were upon a claw-table, in the centre of the apartment, scarcely allowed him to distinguish the costume of the different portraits, one of which, he fancied, bore some resemblance to Mr. Langhton. As they had all been done in Italy, they were by no means bad paintings ; and he rather presumed, the one that reminded him of the master of the house, had been done for him while a monk.

He continued, however, to pace this immense room, reflecting upon its present and former inhabitants, till Lady William again joined him, declaring she was shocked at having left him so long alone.

“ If I put you at all out of your way, Lady William, I shall feel myself compelled to shorten my visit. I came hither to see
you

you and my brother and sister, but not as a ceremonious visitor ; therefore, to convince me that you consider me as one of the family, do not let me detain you from vespers. You can provide me with a book, or pen and ink, and my Scotch friends will be anxious to hear of my safe arrival in Lancashire."

"Of that I make no doubt ; but I hope to-morrow will be soon enough to address them, as I cannot forego the pleasure of your company this evening ; indeed, I very seldom attend vespers at this time of year, as my health will not suffer me to remain with impunity, either before sunrise or after sunset, in our damp chapel. Indeed, I only wonder my father, at his advanced age, can brave the cold as he does : he is a very good man, perhaps rather too rigid in his notions ; and as he has an excellent constitution himself, he is apt to suppose that others cannot suffer in following his example. But this is not the subject I wished to discuss with your Lordship.

Lordship, as I meant to seize this opportunity to express my sense of the obligation you have conferred upon me and my children, by accepting my father's invitation to visit the Priory; though I am fearful you will repent having been so complaisant, before you have been four-and-twenty hours our inmate, as Mr. Langhton conforms so exactly to the mode of life which he led while a professed monk, that, with the best intentions in the world, he cannot render himself an agreeable companion to a man of the world; and, though my children are not, I trust, wholly uninformed, they have led so recluse a life, that they are extremely deficient, in many respects."

The Marquis seized this opportunity to bestow a very warm eulogium upon his sister, protesting that he was ready to assert the superiority of her beauty, &c. &c. against any discourteous knight, who gave the preference to a mere belle of fashion.

Lady William was both flattered and
amused

amused by his vehemence ; observing, that the Priory had no doubt reminded him of the ancient castles, in which peerless damsels were formerly confined by cruel giants, or wicked magicians.

Malcolm could have compared Father Benedetto to the latter, but did not feel at liberty to censure so grave a personage ; and Lady William, aware perhaps that she had spoken rather too plain, reverted, in the most flattering terms, to the late Marquis of Endermay, who had taken her under his protection, when she was in a manner friendless, and a sort of solitary outcast, and had been the ultimate means of bringing about a reconciliation between her and her father. Nor did she do less justice to the Earl of Algernon ; adding, “ whether I wrote last to him, or he to me, I cannot say. I fear it was wished to wean me from my heretic friends. To his Lordship only I permit you to whisper my suspicions ; he will appreciate my motive for being thus explicit, as I feel very anxious
to

to be, once more, upon friendly terms with my excellent brother-in-law; and the kind message he sent me by Belthorpe, has induced me to hope he will not be averse to a renewal of our intimacy: so now give me your opinion of the Countess."

"Suffer me to see her first, my dear Madam, as I have never yet been introduced to her; but expect to be so ere long, as well as to Lady Winifred Albany and her ward."

"I once saw your great-aunt—she paid me a lying-in visit soon after my return to the Priory; but as she had certainly slighted me, when I fancied I stood most in need of her assistance, I have never felt very cordially inclined towards her; though for my children's, more especially my daughter's sake, I should wish to be upon rather a more intimate footing with so near a relation of her late father's, as, in the event of my death, I should wish her to have some female protectress."

"I trust you will live to see her happy,
in

in the protection of an excellent husband," was the reply.

" May your words be prophetic, my Lord !—My son is a much greater favourite with his grandfather, because Father Benedetto gives him the preference ; I cannot give you a better reason, as I think the secluded life he has led has depressed all the nobler energies of his mind. Whenever my father dies, he will probably be emancipated from what he frequently terms a state of bondage ; and I am fearful he will then endeavour to make himself ample amends for his present privations, since Father Benedetto, notwithstanding his avowed partiality for him, seems infinitely more anxious to render him a fit inhabitant for a monastery, than to appear with *eclat* in the world. I perceived you were surprised that none of us drank tea with you ; but we always, on the eve of St. Simon and St. Jude, and on those of many other holidays, observe a strict fast ; and, were even a monarch to honour the

Priory

Priory with his presence, my father would not break through a single monastic rule during his stay. Indeed I sometimes fear that we are more attentive to forms than to essentials; and if religion does not proceed from the heart, such a strict observance of the fasts and festivals, is more likely to render young people hypocrites than good Catholics: and I grieve to acknowledge, that my son is, like my father, credulously superstitious, and fancies, like him, that a confessor can absolve him from any crime. 'Tis a dangerous belief, in my opinion; but what I condemn in Algernon, has greatly endeared him to his grandfather. I should not be thus explicit to any one less nearly connected with him, but I am resolved not to have any reserves with your Lordship. Belthorpe you have seen much more off his guard, I dare say, than he ever is at the Priory, as I have long feared that he does not strictly act up to what he professes: but I am obliged to affect ignorance of many things, since it is rather a hazardous

hazardous experiment, to prefer a complaint against a Catholic priest. He was highly recommended to my father; and I hope I am not too fastidious in my notions, since, in my opinion, a man of his profession must be either a saint or a hypocrite."

Malcolm, who had not chosen to interrupt her, now said that he perfectly agreed with her, since a Catholic priest was required to be more than mortal.

Lady William now reverted to her daughter, when, suddenly stopping, she exclaimed, "That is my father's step!—Good Heavens! how soon this evening has slipped away!" and, before our hero could reply, the party came in from chapel; Belthorpe saying, "I am glad you did not accompany us, Lady William, for it is a very cold evening."

"I am never sensible of either heat or cold, when addressing my Creator," gravely resumed Mr. Langhton, not appearing to approve of the remark; while our hero drew his sister near the fire, as the icy feel

feel of her hand was a convincing proof that she was not such an enthusiast: and, before they had resumed their seats, supper was announced, which was served in another parlour, of nearly the same dimensions as the reception-room; at one end of which was a large Gothic bow-window, which Mr. Langhton styled the *oriel*; informing his guest, that, while the Priory was inhabited by a religious community, one of them always read at that window, during the abbot's dinner and supper; adding, "I have made no stranger of your Lordship. This being a fast-day, no animal food ever appears at my table. I hope you have no dislike to fish and eggs."

Malcolm assured him he was very partial to both, and that he seldom eat meat suppers.

They were not, however, permitted to fall to, till Father Benedetto had audibly pronounced a long Latin *benedicite* upon the repast, which was much better than our hero had expected; though he made no

doubt of Lady William's having given very particular orders and instructions to the cook, since Mr. Langhton and the friar merely ate a few walnuts and some bread, which they washed down with a glass of water, so strictly did they observe the fast. The rest of the party were not so scrupulous, though they ate very sparingly.

While the servants were clearing the table, Mr. Langhton desired that proper attention might be paid to those in the Marquis of Endermay's suite; and appeared shocked and surprised, when informed that his Lordship's valet was the only one who had remained at the Priory; the others, with the carriage and horses, having all gone to the Nag's Head in the village, as he was fearful, he said, they would be very badly accommodated at such a mere country town; though, in fact, he was very happy his own grey-headed attendants would not be compelled to mix with so worldly a set: and, soon after ten, he rose to retire, requesting the Marquis would
consider

consider himself at home, as his age obliged him to keep very good hours, and he was in the habit of rising very early; leaving the room with Father Benedetto, who bestowed a devout blessing upon the remaining party.

Our hero made a motion to follow their example; but Lady William requested he would keep his seat, as she knew, from Mr. Belthorpe's account, that he was not in the habit of retiring so early; assuring him that she seldom went to bed before eleven, as her health did not permit her to attend matins, which Mr. Langhton made a rule of doing, at four o'clock in the morning, both summer and winter; though she generally accompanied him to mass, at seven. "Vespers," she proceeded, "are always sung at the same hour in the evening; and, on holydays, we are required to hear sext at noon, and tierce and none at three in the afternoon."

Malcolm listened in silence to this recapitulation; but his countenance evincing

his astonishment, Algernon exclaimed, "I do not think our monkish rules would suit you, brother—you would not have time enough to sleep and to fight; besides, since, were you to follow our example, you might be taken unawares at prayers. But positively, my grandfather used to spend twelve hours out of the four-and-twenty upon his knees, while he was a member of the society of Jesus, at Milan; and I believe he would never have forgiven himself for having broken his vows, if Pope Clement the Fourteenth had not soon after abolished the Order of Jesuits."

Lady William gently hinted, that such details were not likely to amuse his brother, who, fearing he deranged them, soon pleaded fatigue, as an excuse for retiring.

Algernon offered to shew him to his room, while Belthorpe rang for his valet; and, having wished Lady William and his sister a good repose, he followed his brother up an amazing wide staircase, and down a long arched passage, till they
reached

reached a room nearly the size of the one they had supped in, and which was equally embellished by a Gothic oriel window. A very large fire was blazing in the chimney; and, by way of convincing him how much he was honoured, Algernon informed him that several crowned heads had slept in this room, in days of yore.

Belthorpe soon made his appearance with the valet, for whom an adjoining apartment had been prepared; and, after wishing the young Peer a good repose, he retired with his pupil, who, as well as himself, was obliged to attend matins.

Our hero now looked round his cheerless apartment. A bed of faded silk, in which he thought it very possible bloody Mary might have reposed, stood at the farther extremity; some high-backed stuff chairs, covered with silk of the same manufactory, were thinly scattered here and there; a toilet of more modern date, and which, he made no doubt, had been removed out of Lady William's room, stood near the fire,

as did a very comfortable arm-chair ; and upon the hearth was a rug of her or Rosalie's working, he presumed: still, every surrounding object looked dreary and uncomfortable ; and as a gust of wind shook the crazy casement of the oriel, while the great clock heavily tolled eleven, he could not help thinking that the Priory was well suited for a second edition of the exploits of Sir Bertrand, or that it would form an appropriate academy for the spectre-loving pupils of the German school.

During these reflections, he had been examining his couch, and was pleased to see that the sheets and covers looked remarkably clean—Lady William had assured him, the bed had been well aired. Not choosing, however, to make any remarks, he was returning towards the fire, when he met the eyes of Donald, who looked so discontented, he could not restrain a smile.

“ I am fearful your Lordship will never be able to sleep in this uncomfortable room. What with the rattling of the case-
ment,

ment, the roaring of the wind in the chimney, and its howling in these endless passages, you will certainly never forget yourself."

"I shall only have to reflect how much more noisy the wind was, during the storm we weathered coming home, Donald, and how much better my present accommodations are, than those I met with on board the frigate, to ensure me a sound repose."

"Why certainly, my 'Lord, even such an apartment as this is preferable to a state-cabin on board ship; and I have been assured the bed has been thoroughly aired, therefore I hope you will not catch cold. But the family here seem so bent upon securing good places in Heaven, that they do not care how they fare while upon earth."

"Then they are less worldly-minded than we are," was the reply, holding out his leg to have his boot drawn off—"But I hope you have had no reason to complain,

plain, as I heard Mr. Langhton recommend you to the butler's notice."

"Oh, I have fared very well, my Lord: indeed I am very fond of fish, and Mr. Ashton treated me with some famous old wine. But pray, my Lord, may I be so bold as to enquire whether Mr. Langhton was ever a professed Jesuit?"

"He certainly was, many years ago, which has rendered him very rigid in his notions, and rather gloomy in his habits."

"Oh, his having been a monk accounts for all his strange customs, and sometimes spending the whole night at prayers; for, according to the steward's account, he does not preach what he does not practise. However, I would not lead such a life, even to enjoy his fortune—I had rather be a common soldier."

"But surely his voluntary privations are very meritorious, Donald."

"But if they originate in avarice, my Lord, surely that alters the case; and, according

according to Ashton's account, he is a most abominable miser, since, though he does not live up to half his income, no poor are ever relieved at these gates. Father Benedetto is almoner, and, as the steward says, he thinks charity begins at home: indeed, no one likes the Italian, though they all seem to fear him. Mr. Belthorpe is now confessor to most of the household, and they do not care how soon it pleases God to call Father Benedetto to himself."

"Very possibly—but, as I am undressed, you may retire. Remember and call me before nine, as the family breakfast at that hour, I understand."

"Your Lordship may depend upon my punctuality. But I wish you would allow me to bring my bed in here—I could sleep very comfortably upon the floor; and ten to one whether that bell will ring, should you want any thing in the night."

"I am of opinion, Donald," said the smiling Peer, "that you fancy this old mansion is haunted."

"I am

“I am sure I would not take upon me to swear it is not, my Lord—the servants tell strange stories respecting this very room; and as this was once a convent, there is no knowing what wicked deeds may have been committed within these walls.”

“But as neither of us were concerned in these said iniquitous proceedings, I think we may venture to sleep in peace; so good-night.”

The valet said no more, aware that this was the signal for his departure. Therefore, having secured the fire, and placed a lamp upon the chimney-piece, he reluctantly withdrew; but lingered some time near the door, so fearful was he that some of the ghosts, whom, the servants had hinted, sometimes visited that room, should disturb his beloved master: not that he was by any means a coward, and he was well convinced that it must indeed be something more than mortal to occasion the Marquis any degree of alarm; still he
could

could not help dreading that some evil awaited his master, in this gloomy habitation.

The great clock striking the half hour, made him resolve to seek his room; but he could not refrain from first peeping through the key-hole, to see if his lord was in bed, and saw him rising from his knees, having just finished his evening orisons to his Creator. "Surely he will come to no harm!" he mentally ejaculated—"He, God bless him! prays in good earnest, and without so much fuss as these Catholics," turning into his own apartment, where we shall leave him to forget, in a sound sleep, the fears he entertained for his master's safety.

END OF VOL. I.

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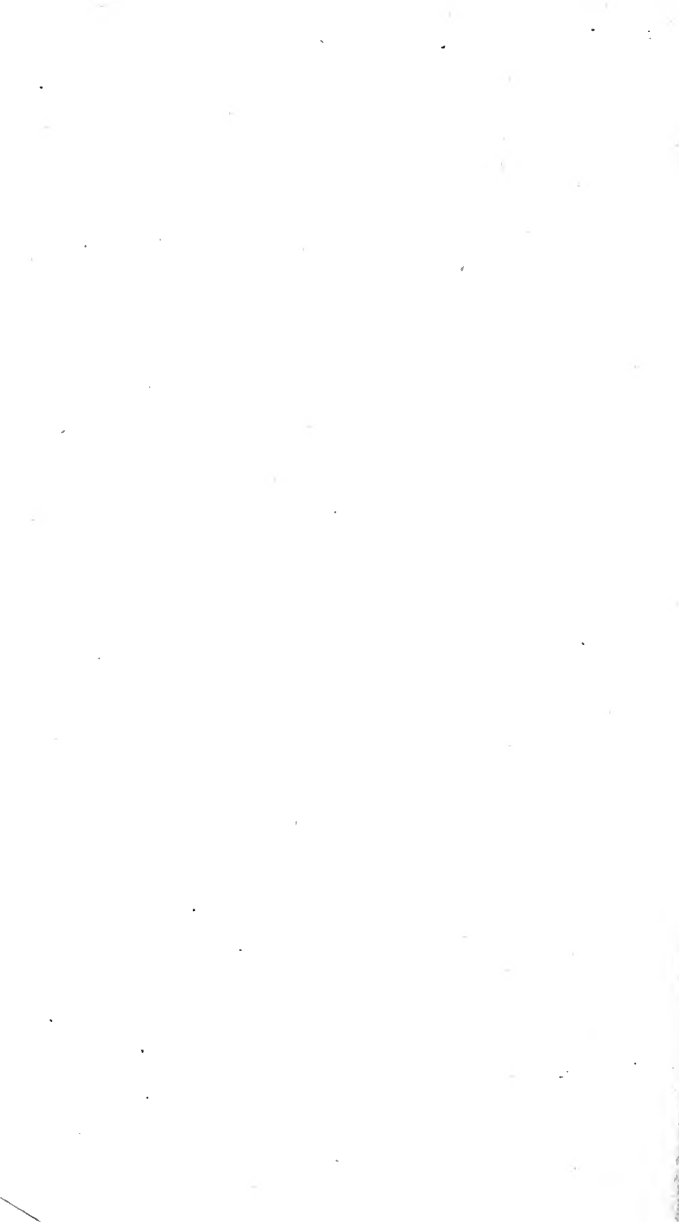
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